SATOSHI KON'S

PERFECT BLUE

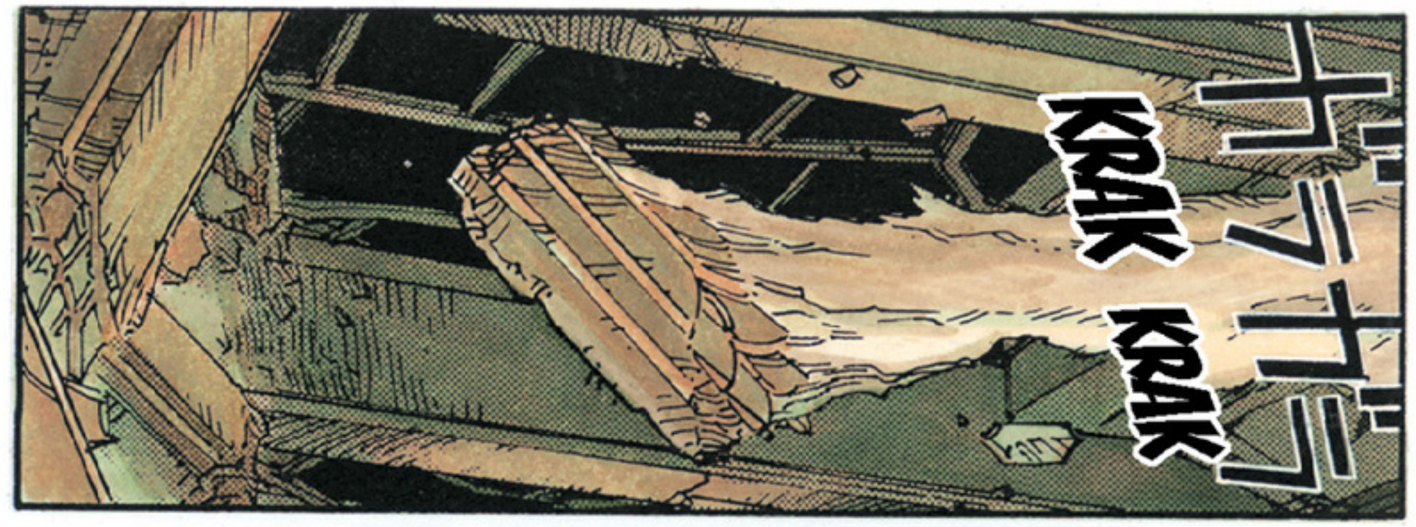
SATOSHI KON'S

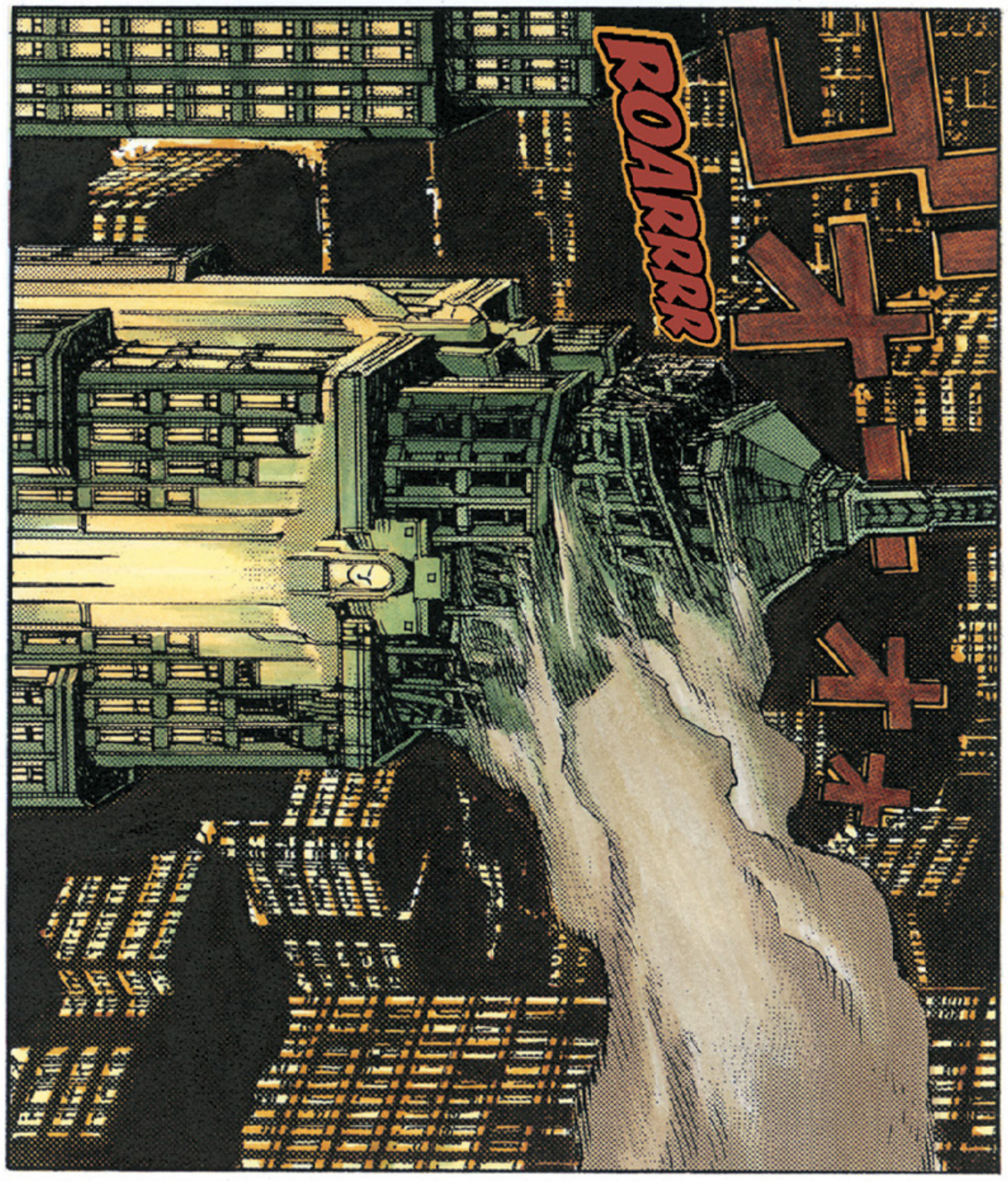
OPUS

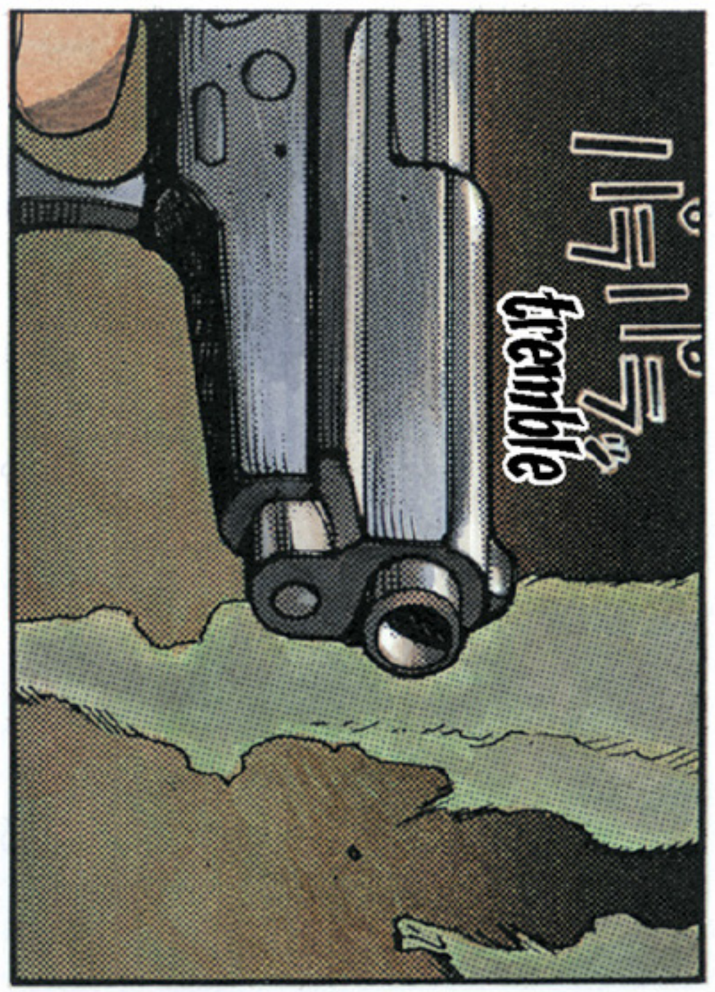


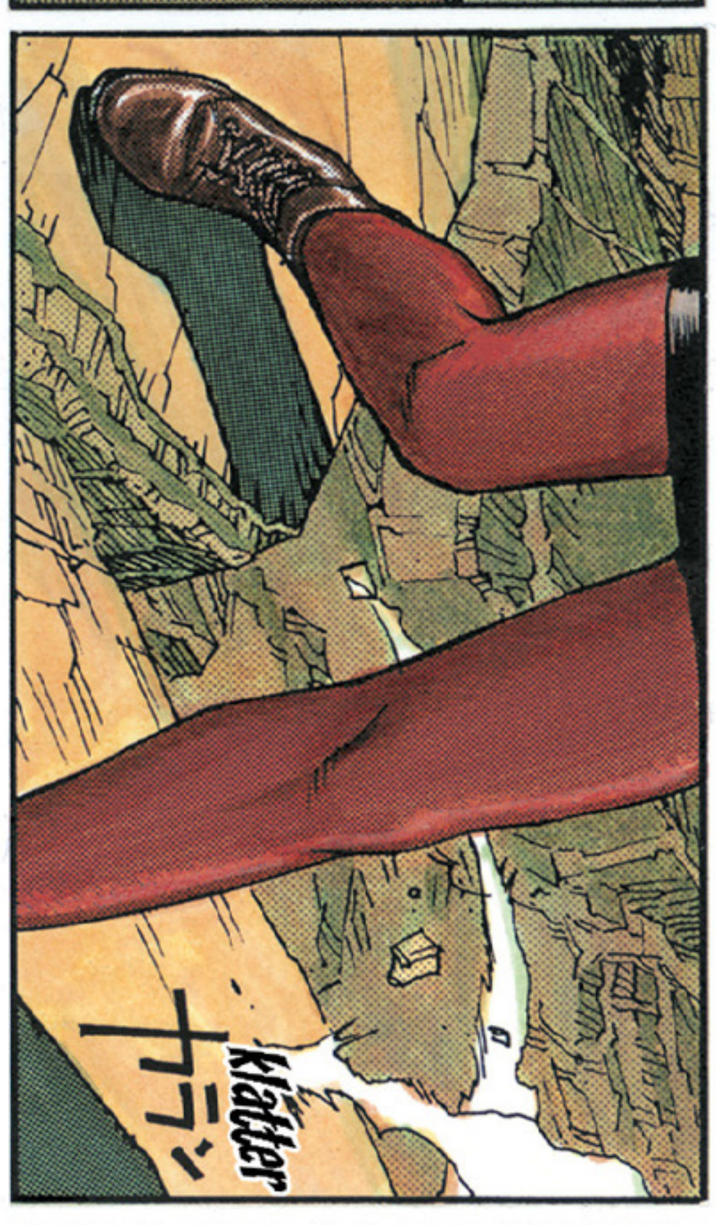
STORY AND ART BY SATOSHI KON

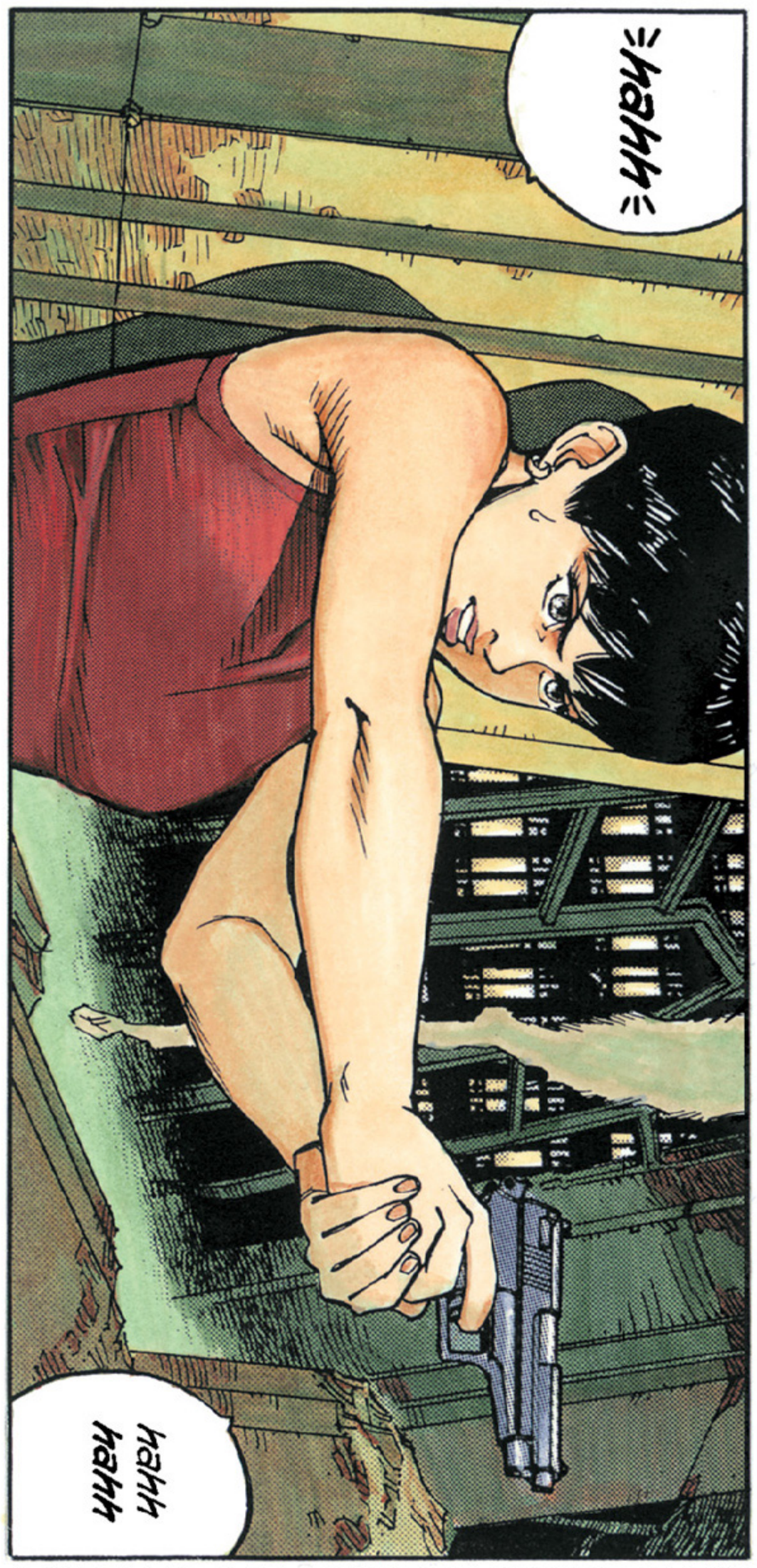
DARK HORSE MANGA









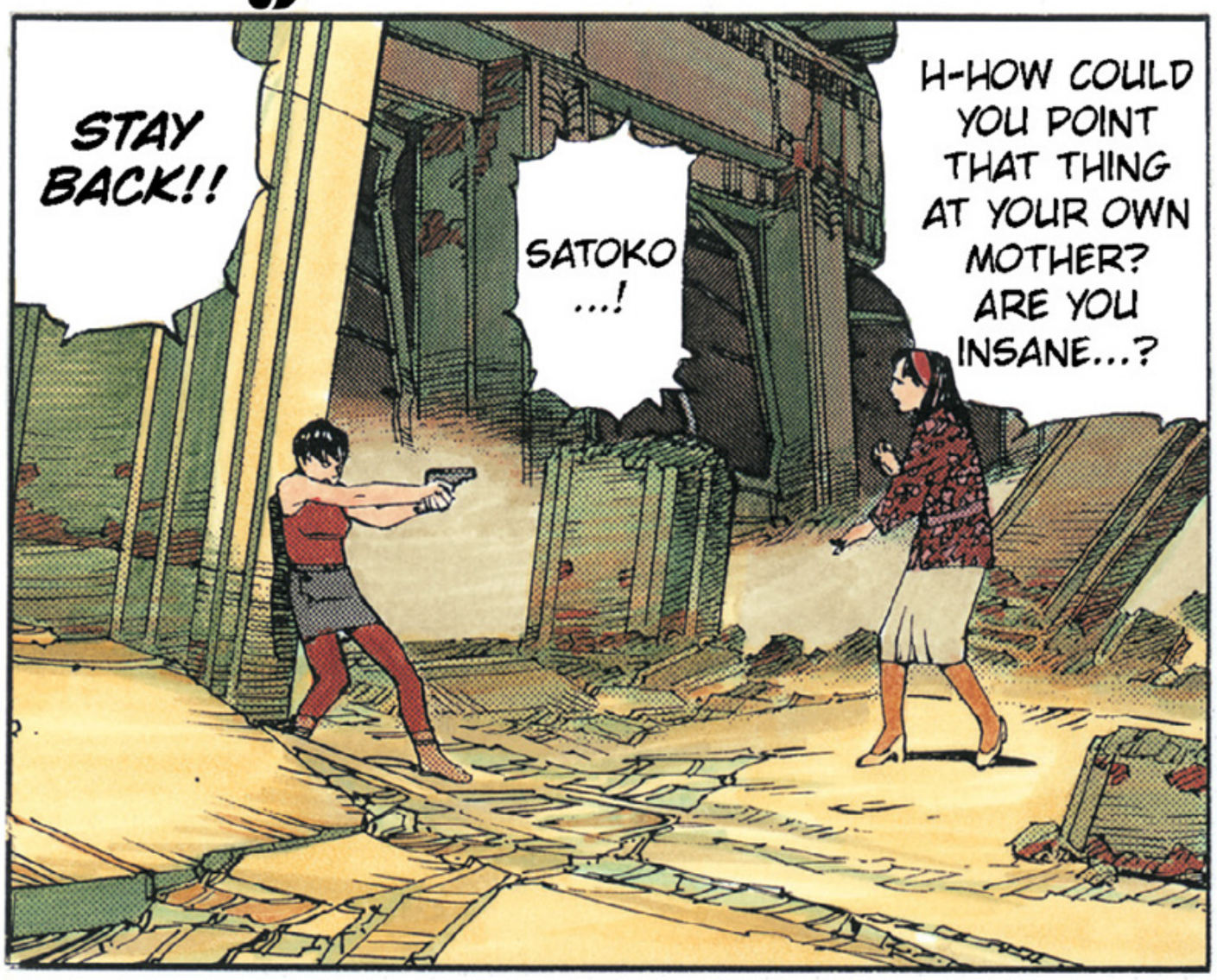


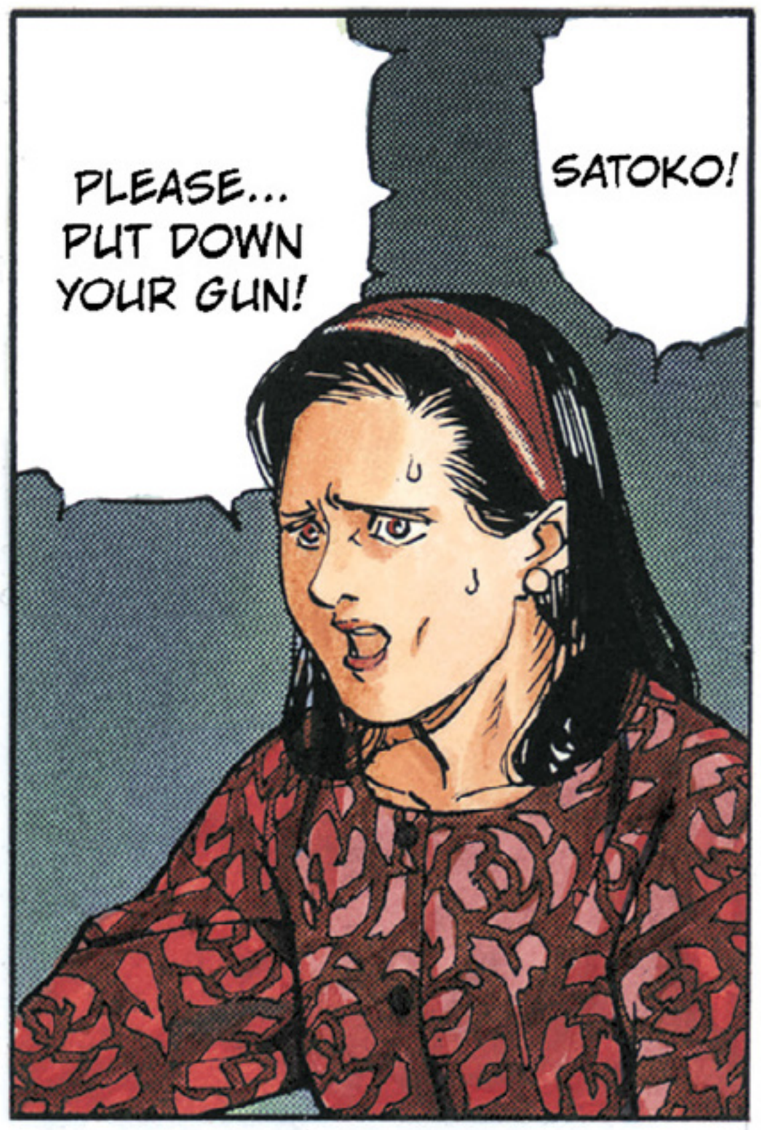
AT THE END OF A LONG HUNT FOR THE MYSTERIOUS CULT LEADER KNOWN AS "THE MASQUE," SATOKO CONFRONTS . . . HER MOTHER?!

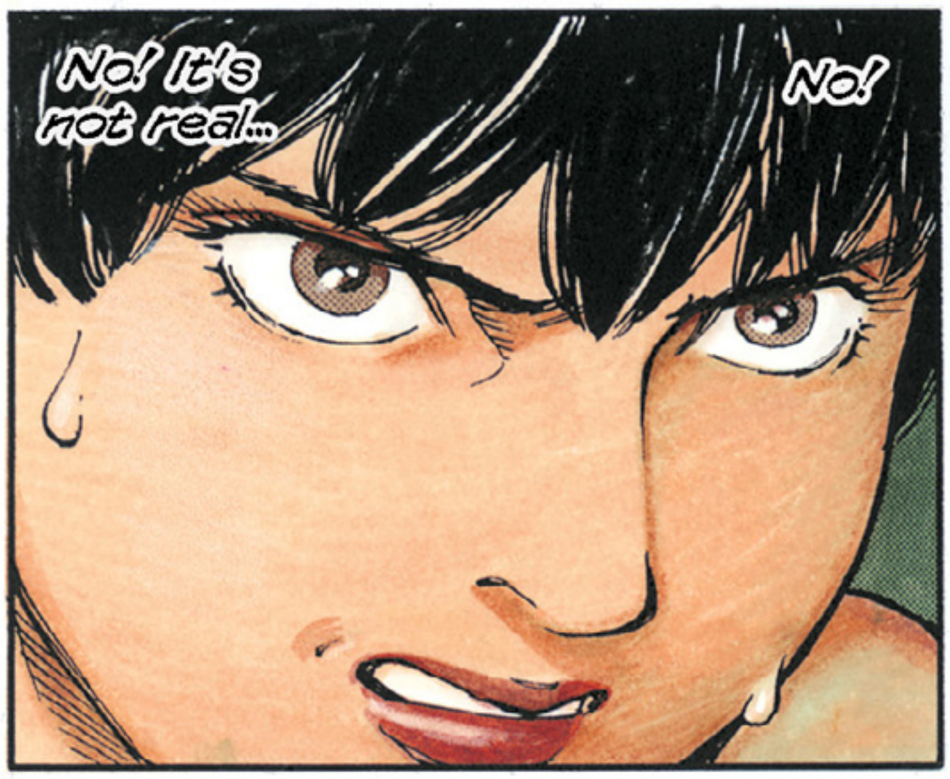
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THE STORY THUS FAR

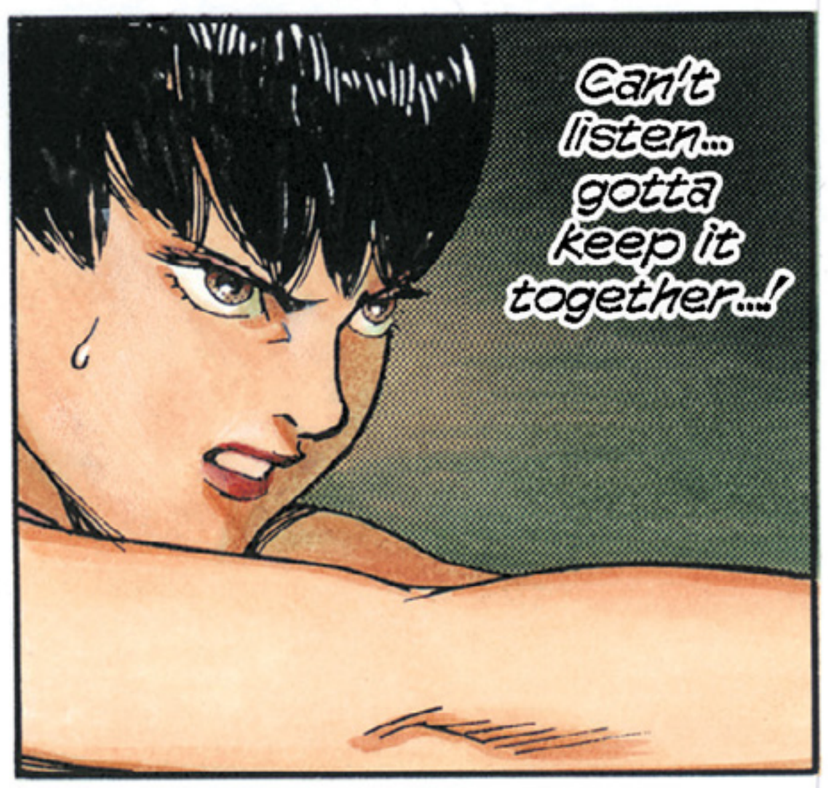
On the trail of a series of inexplicable disappearances, Special Investigations Unit agent Satoko uncovered a conspiracy that linked a new virtual drug on the streets to an enigmatic cult known as the "Nameless Faith" that is distributing the drug to implant subliminal messages in the populace! With the psychic gang leader Lin as her ally, Satoko attempted to take down the cult, only to find they have control over politicians, her fellow cops, and even her family! Satoko must go it alone, and she plans to make this fight one on one . . . with the leader of the Nameless Faith, known as the Masque!



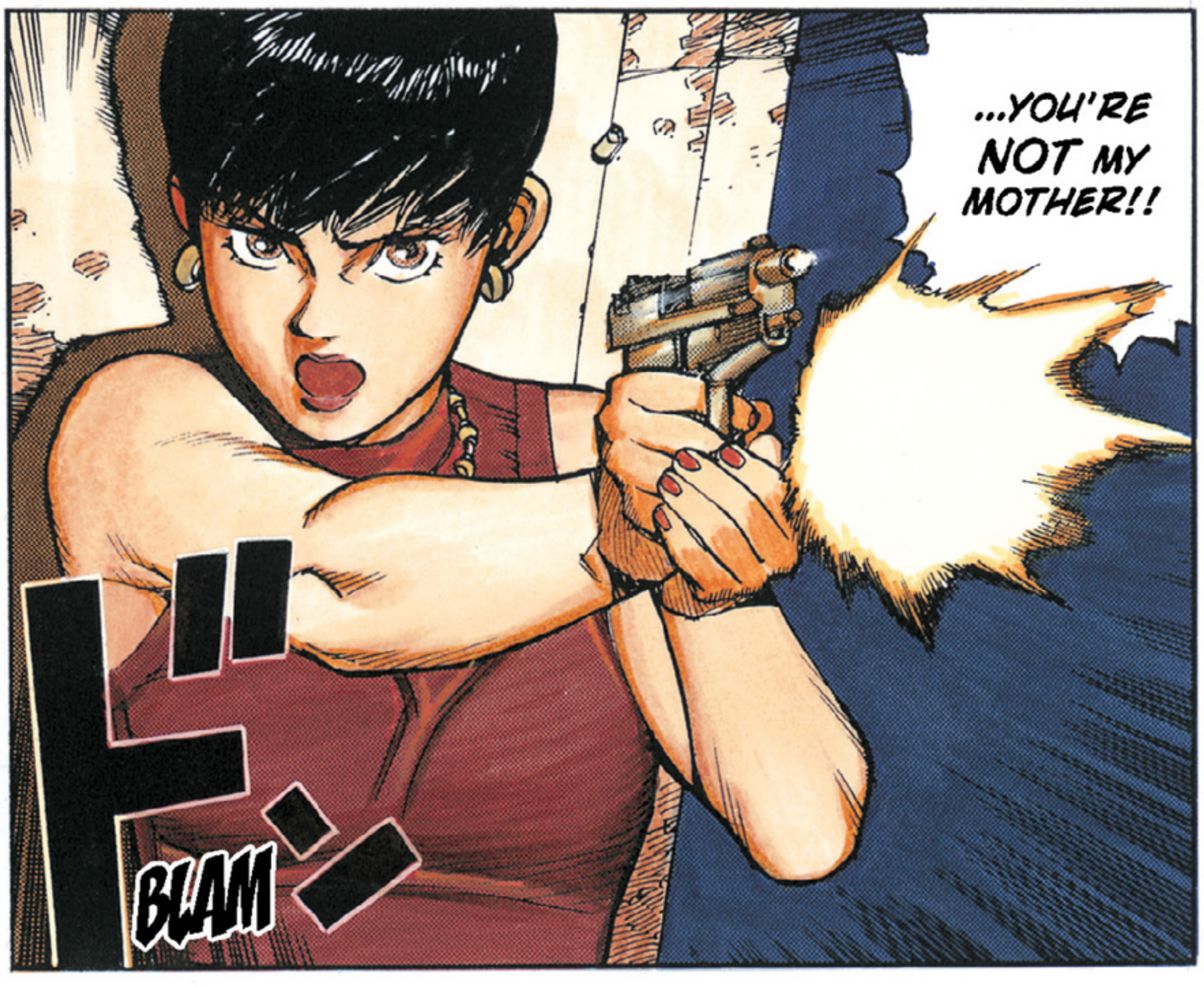












✪ HYPER-PSYCHO NEAR-FUTURE ACTION ✪



THE IMMORTAL MONSTER CALLED THE MASQUE! NO ONE KNOWS HIS TRUE FORM!!

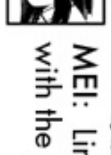
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SATOKO MIURA: Heroine of the story. A rookie investigator with telepathic powers.



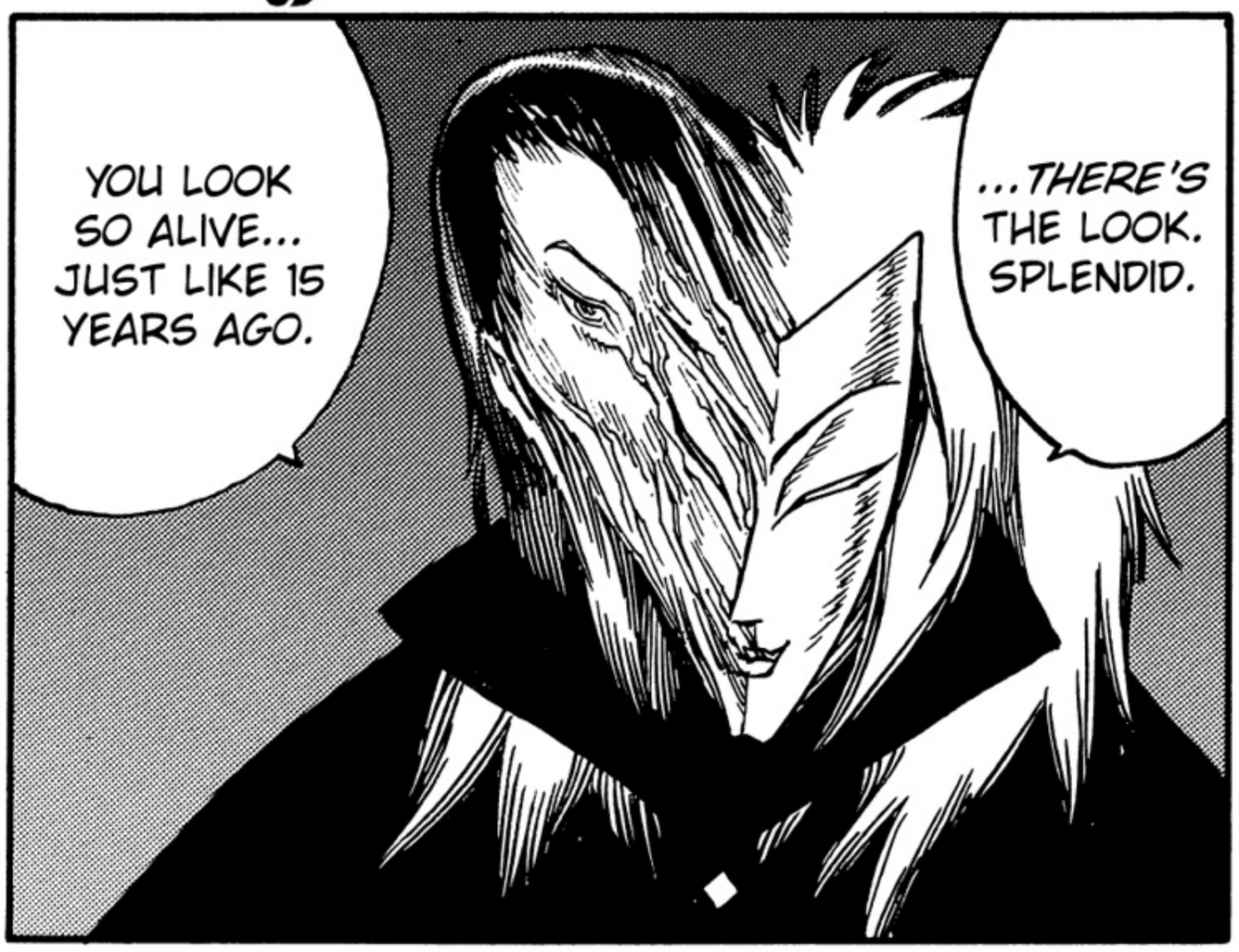
LIN: Gang leader from the foreign quarter. His psychic powers far exceed Satoko's.

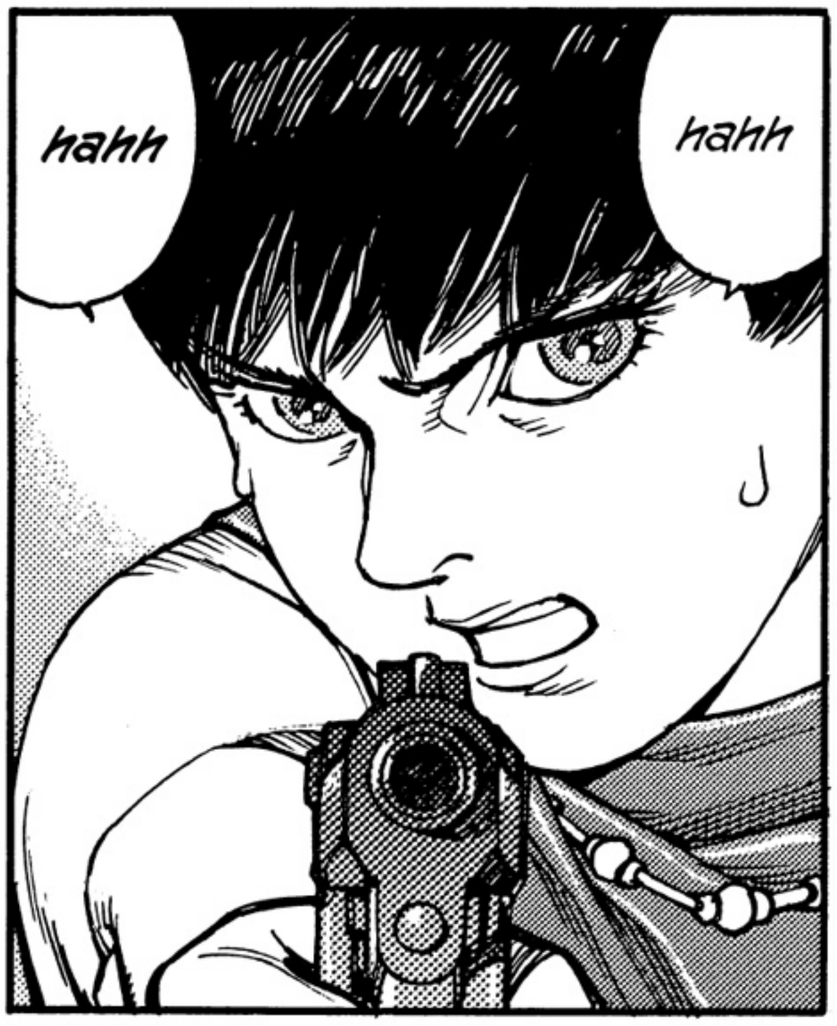


MEI: Lin's younger sister. Blind, but blessed with the gift of second sight . . .

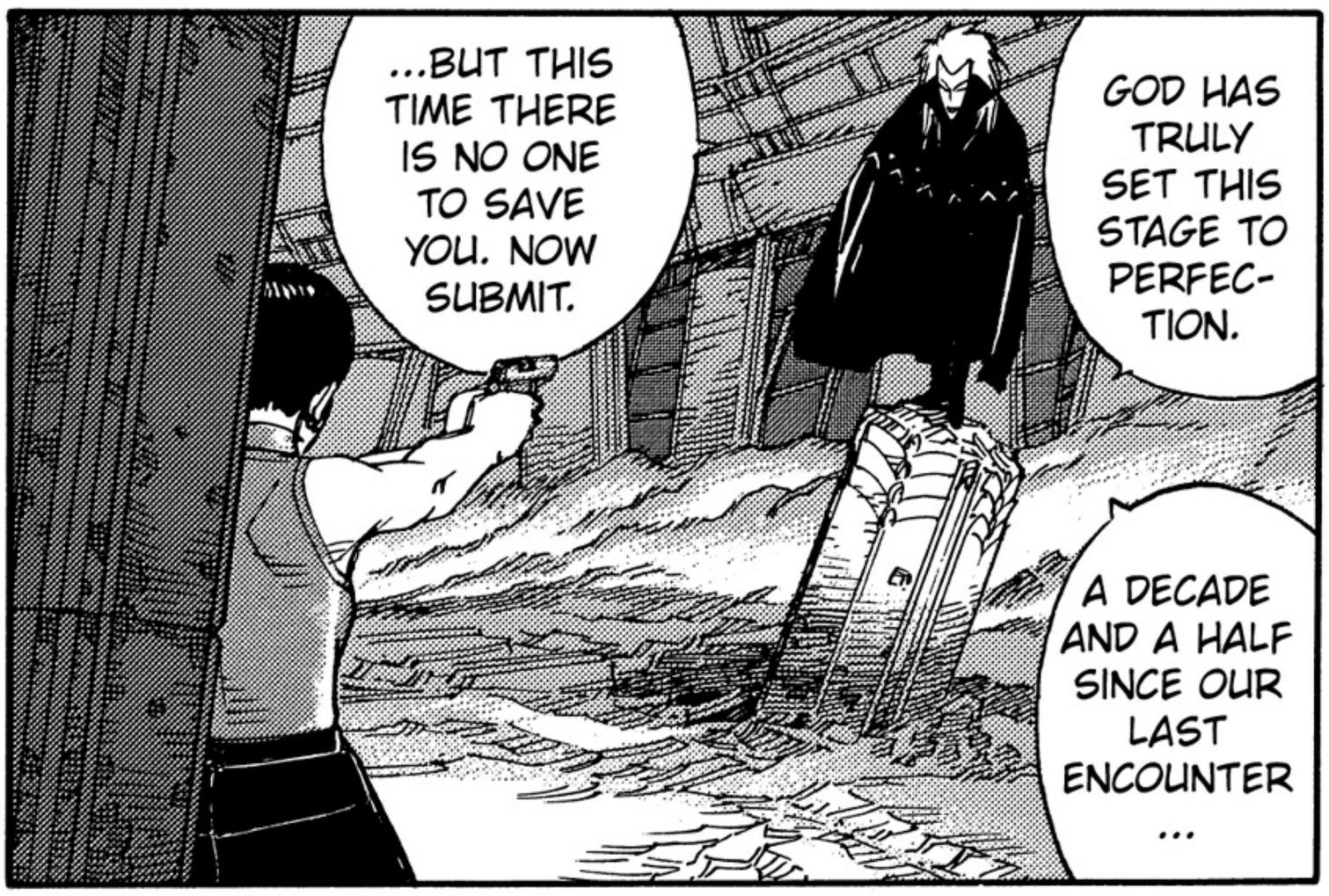


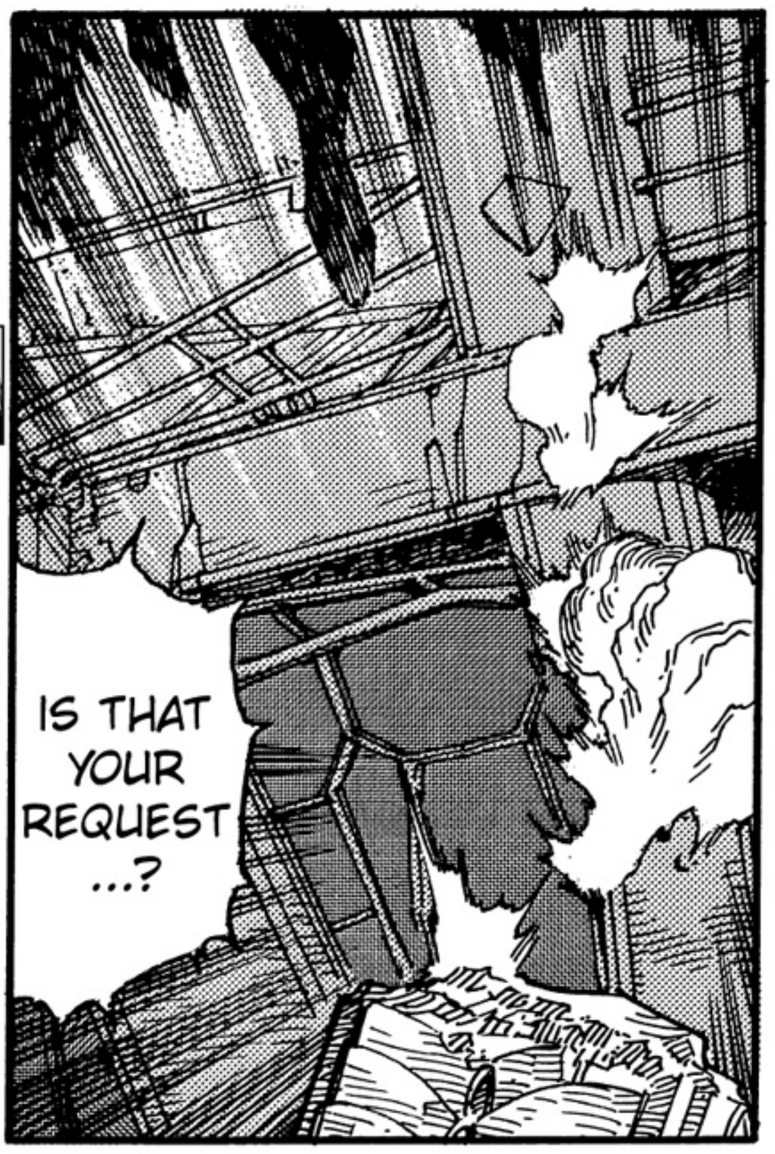
THE MASQUE: Founder and leader of the "Nameless Faith" cult. Uses psychics as his tools to brainwash others into joining the cult.

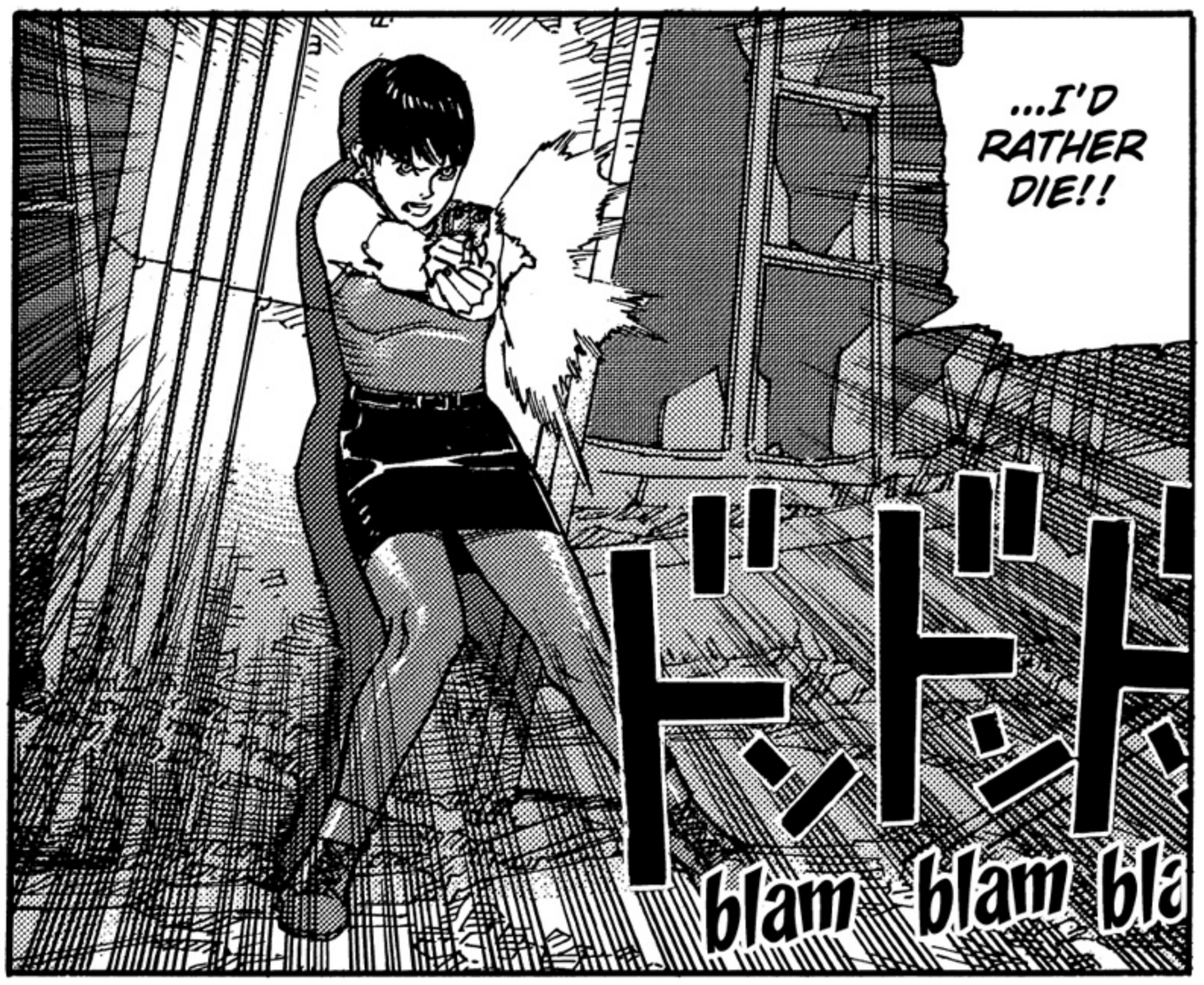




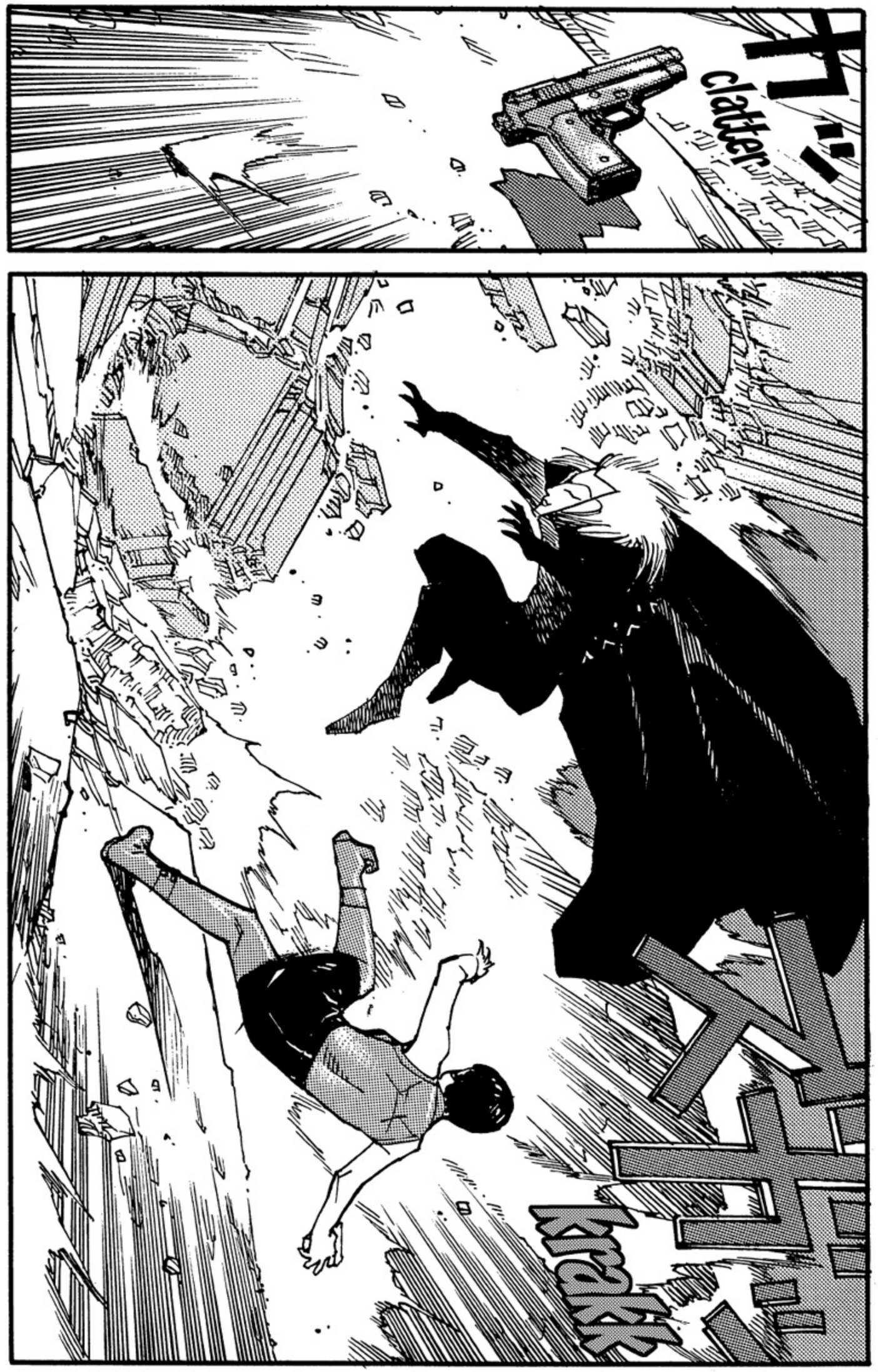


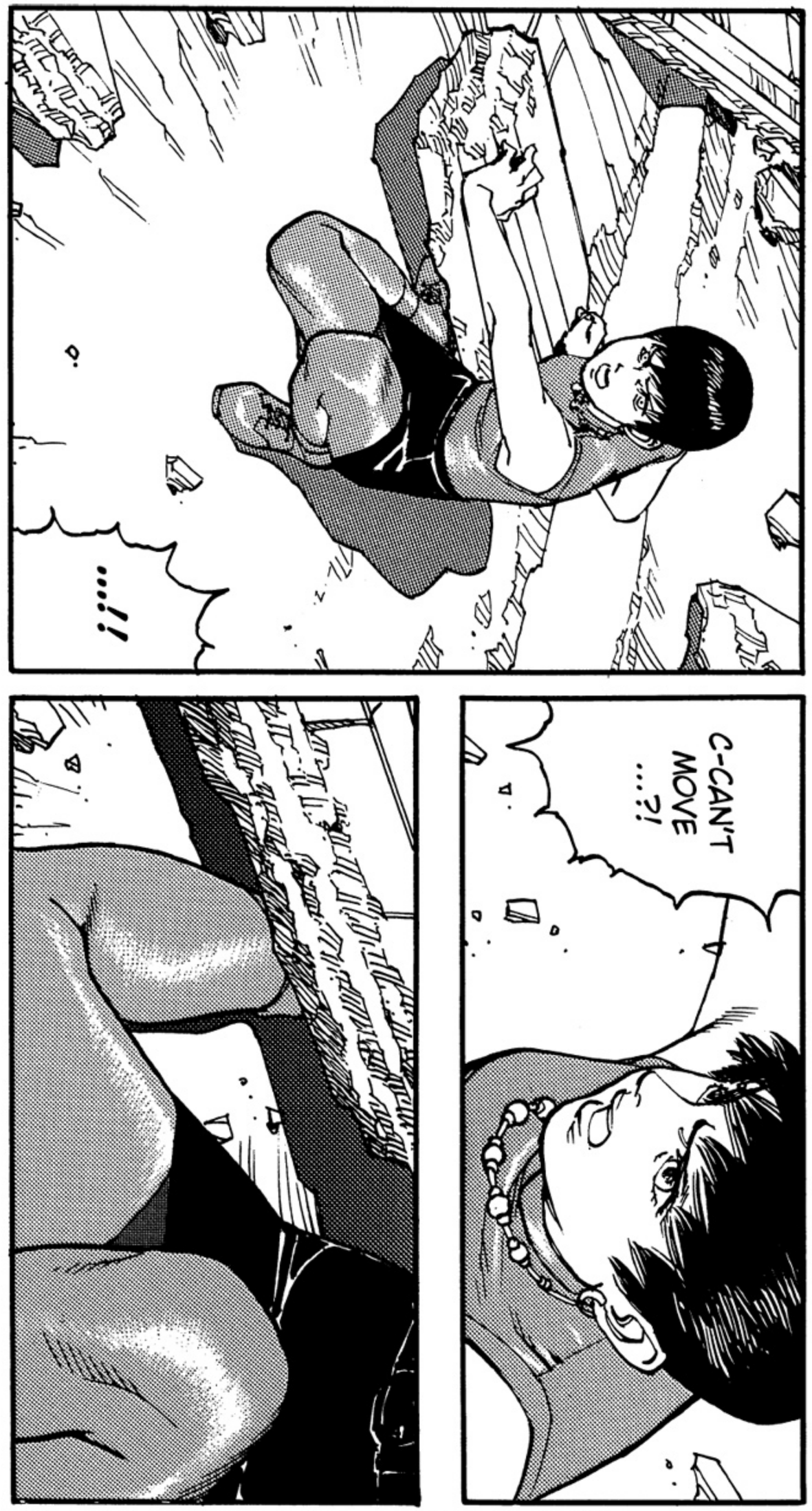




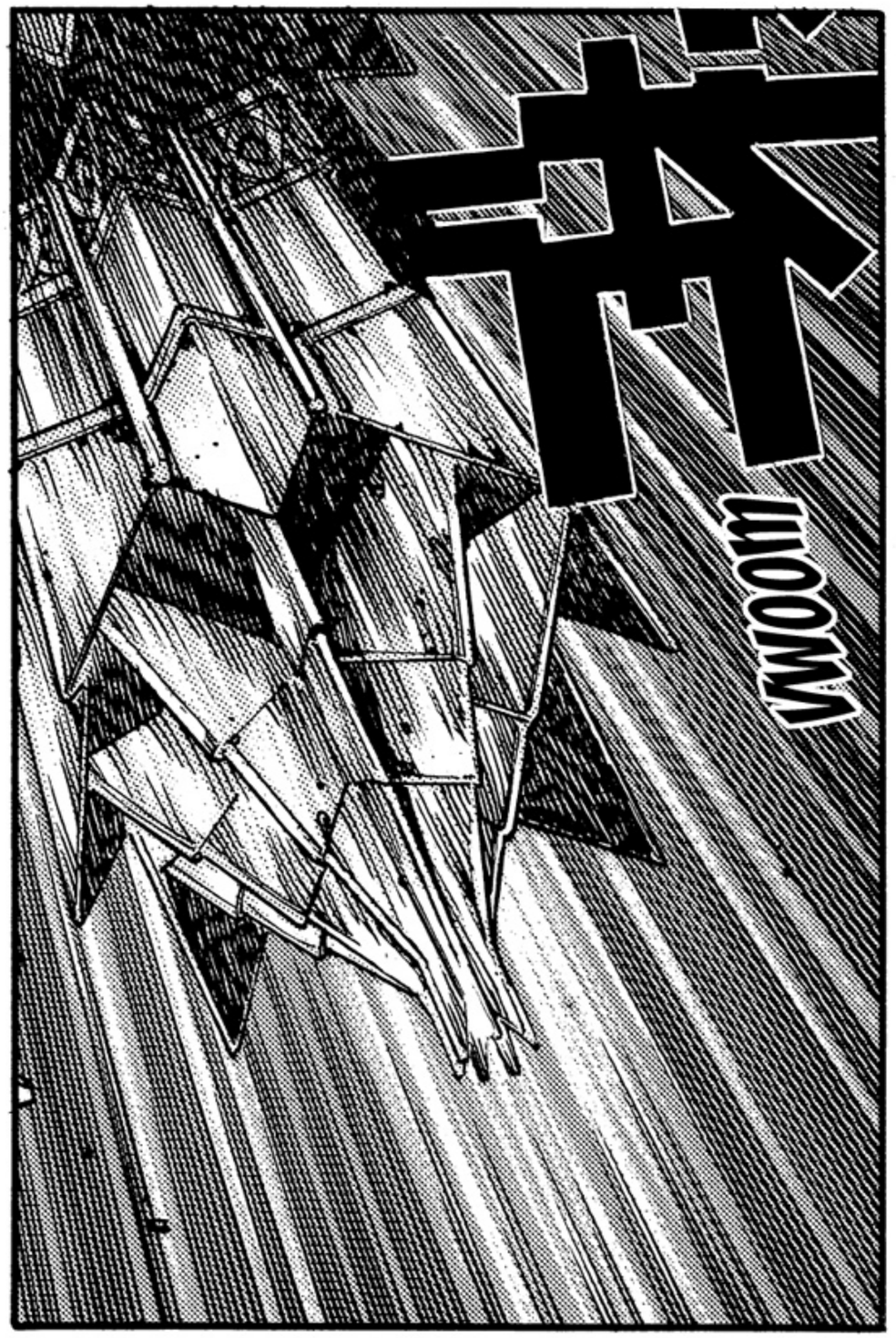








◆Please let us know what you think about this manga! Write to: ATTN: RESONANCE, c/o *Young Guard* Editorial Department, Box 145, Big Port Ward, Liar's Town, Tokyo◆







Young Guard ヤングガード

YOUNG GUARD COMICS

RESONANCE VOLS. 1–8 BY CHIKARA NAGAI

ON SALE NOW!!

EH...?

tmp

タッ

Shinga

LIN STANDS BETWEEN A WOUNDED SATOKO AND THE MASQUE . . . !

LIN

...?!

NEXT ISSUE . . . *RESONANCE*—THE CONCLUSION !!!

Lin! I told you not to come...you're not healed...!

Sorry to make you wait...but I've brought the ass kicking!

...And neither can your gun.

That's how you say thanks...? When your telepathy can't do shit here...

To come all this way just to die...well! You cannot defy destiny.

Now...

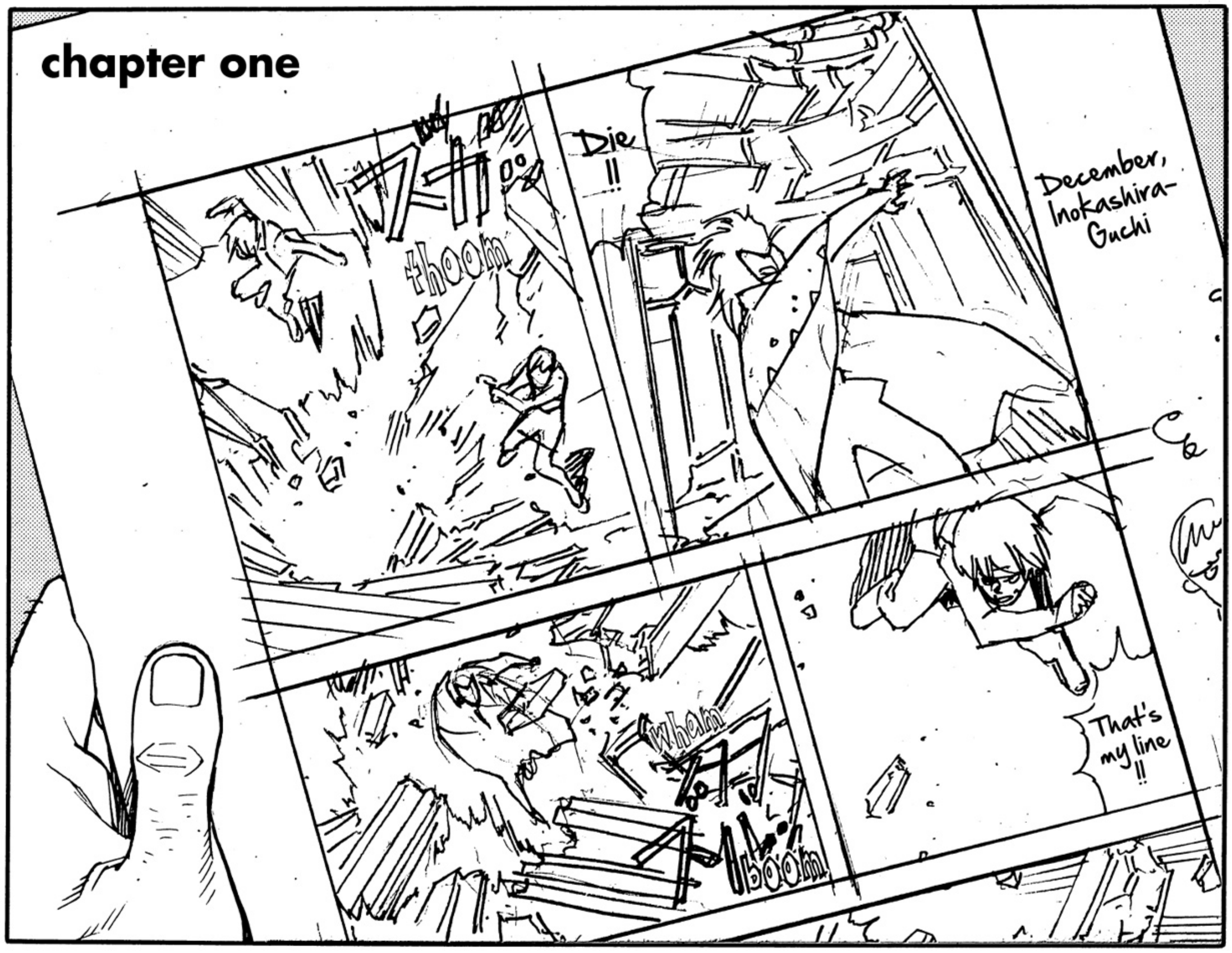
At last the cast is complete! It has been just as long for you.

...let me kill this guy. It's what I was born for, after all.

...And your destiny...where the sun don't shine...!!

Ha! Destiny? Shove your preaching...

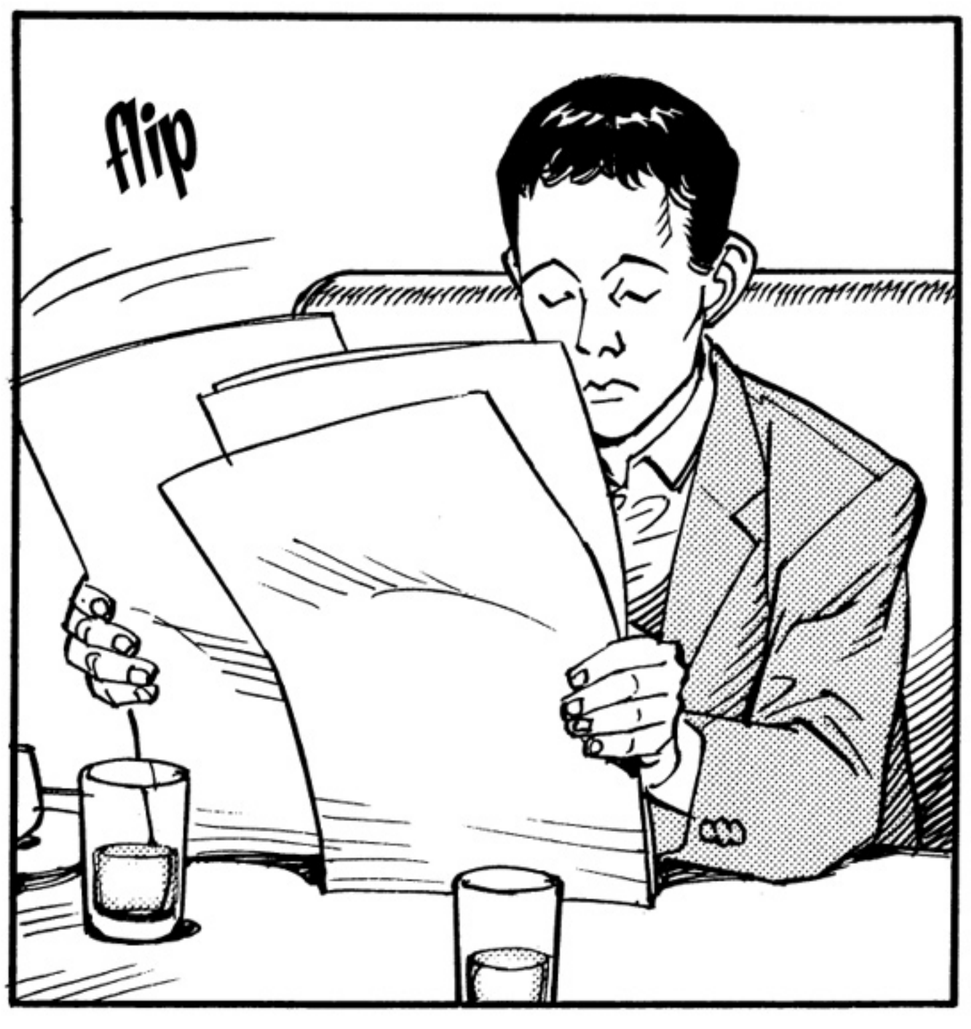
chapter one


Die !!
December, Inokashira-Guchi
thoom
That's my line !!
wham
boom


flip
!!


klik
klik


skritch
skritch-skritch


flip

YEAH.

MORE COFFEE?

I'M FINE.

Fhhhhh

HMM...

コポコポコポ
glug glug glug

カサッ
flip

GYAA !!

I'm gonna... make you wish you were never born...

LIN!!

...WAIT. YOU'RE KILLING OFF LIN...?

bang

23

OH. *THAT.*

...WHAT HAPPENED TO SATOKO DEFEATING THE MASQUE...? THE HAPPY ENDING...ALL THAT...?

YEAH...IT'S BADASS, AND I LIKE WHAT YOU DID, BUT...

EPIC, HUH ?

YEP... BANG!

...NOT QUITE IN LINE WITH READER EXPECTATIONS, THOUGH.

I SEE...

...I THOUGHT THIS WOULD MAKE FOR A BIG FINISH.

YEAH, I TRIED A FEW IDEAS...BUT WITH LIN BECOMING MORE PROMINENT IN VOLUME THREE, THE MASQUE GOT STRONGER ALSO. TOO TOUGH FOR SATOKO TO REALISTICALLY TAKE OUT...

...

...STILL, YOU'RE RIGHT, THOUGH. IT'S A HELL OF AN ENDING.

Lin!!

WELL...

AH.

...IT'S JUST... DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WAS SET UP.

HEY! DON'T TAKE IT THE WRONG WAY...

...I'M SURE *LIN* HATES TO GO LIKE THAT, TOO...!

I GUESS EVERYONE HAS THEIR FAVORITE CHARACTER...I JUST HATE TO SEE HIM GO LIKE THAT.

flip flip トントン

YOU THINK SO?! WELL, THAT'S WHAT I WAS SHOOTING FOR...

...And your destiny...where the sun don't shine...!!

Ha! Destiny? Shove your preaching ...

N...
NARWHAL.

O?
...ONION.

big body

P-mode!

L...L...
LLAMA.

A...
AURORA.

A?...
ARMADILLO.

TAMBOU-
RINE.

NICE!
THAT'S E
FOR ME!
ELEPHANT.

GOD, NOT
BACK TO
A AGAIN.
UM...A...
ALOHA.

THE
HELL...?
A RIGHT
BACK AT
ME? OKAY...
APERTURE.

DID YOU FIND ME ANOTHER ASSISTANT ...?

...NAGAI HERE.

ANGORA.

EBOLA.

PILOT

brrrngg

A AGAIN...?

CABIN

THAT'S NIGHT. WHAT TIME IS NIGHT AGAIN...? WHAT? HEY...

AREOLA!

LOOK, I HAVEN'T SLEPT FOR TWO DAYS. I NEED SOMEONE BY TOMORROW AFTERNOON... NO, NOT NIGHT. AFTERNOON.

OH, COME ON...JUST SOMEONE TO DO THE SCREEN-TONES...

OKAY... A...A...

I SAID YOUR *BEST.* NO. WELL, AT LEAST BETTER THAN *THAT.*

LOSER

ASS-HOLE!

...JUST DO YOUR BEST.

WAIT...

...
FINISHED? OKAY, JUST A SEC.

...THE BACK-GROUNDS, NAGAI-SAN.

AND THUS ...

WELL, SORRY, MAN...

WHAT? DOES IT STAND OUT TOO MUCH?

...THAT'S NO GOOD. WHAT'S WITH THIS VENTILA-TION GRATE YOU PUT HERE...?

CRAP. NO TIME TO REDRAW IT...MAYBE JUST BLACK IT OUT...

...YOU *SHOULD* BE SLACKING... 'CAUSE I SURE CAN'T.

AND *I* GOTTA PENCIL AND WRITE...

OH YEAH? I DO. I GOTTA DRAW THEM AND INK...

NO ONE LOOKS AT THE BACK-GROUNDS ANYWAYS...

snorrr

KANZEN

赤い

KANZEN

...AH! FUCK!!

WHERE'S THAT PEN I JUST HAD?! WHERE? WHERE...?

LOOK AT THAT BASTARD. ASSISTANTS HAVE IT EASY...

ガラガラ

rattle rattle

...OH.

...THAT'S IT!

THE LAST CHAPTER'S DONE. JUST NEEDS THE BACK-GROUNDS NOW...

ZZZZZ

ssshhhh

ZZZZZ

TWO DAYS... JUST NEED TO REST MY EYES...

...AARGHH! WHY DO I EVEN CARE ABOUT THIS...? WHAT A JOKE...!

...OH SURE, I HAD TIME TO GO TO THAT BAR...BOOZE IS NOT A NAP SUBSTITUTE ...

I'M EXPLOITING MYSELF... VIOLATING MY OWN HUMAN RIGHTS...

skritch

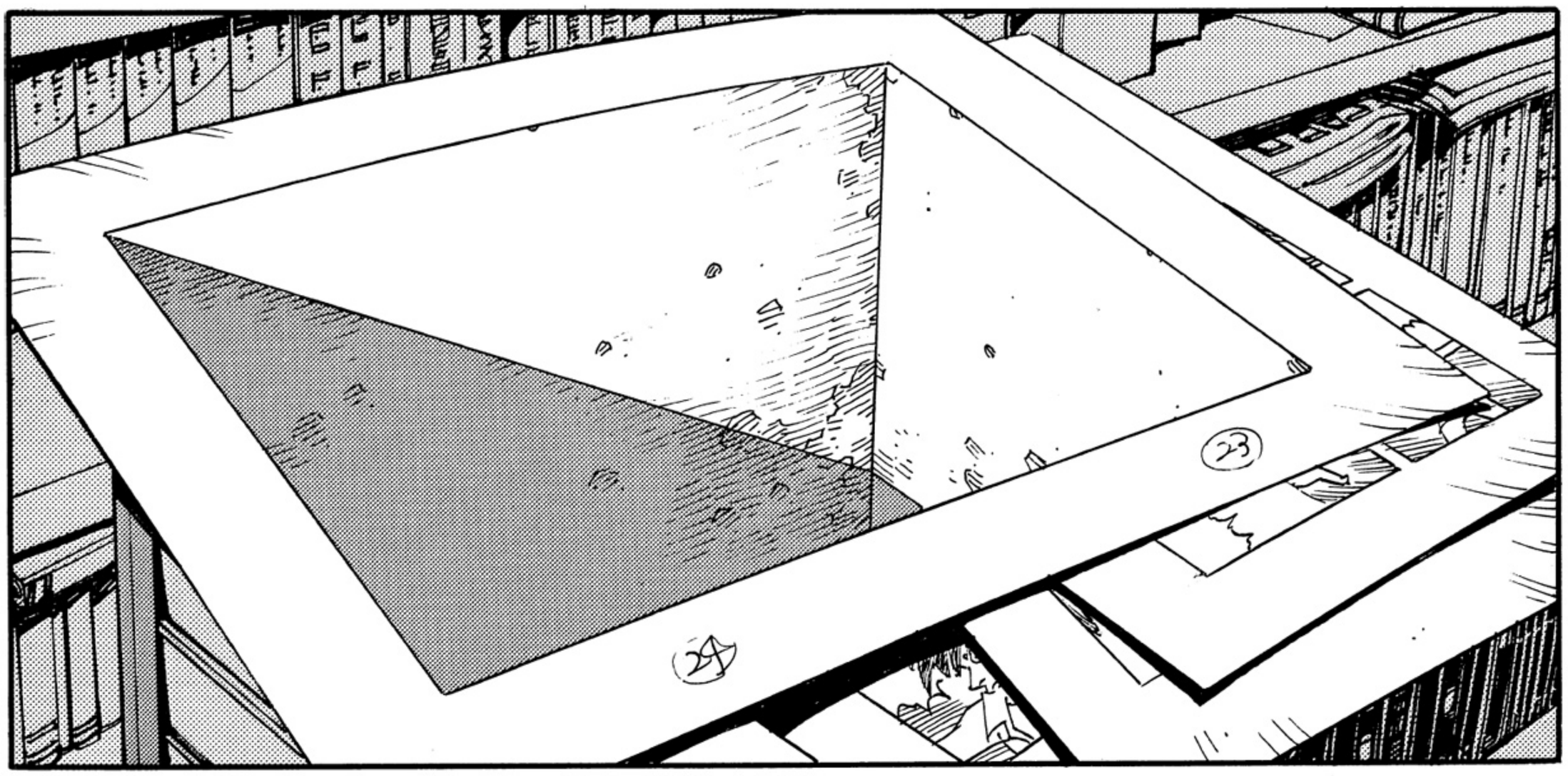
...IS THIS JUST A JOKE TO YOU?!

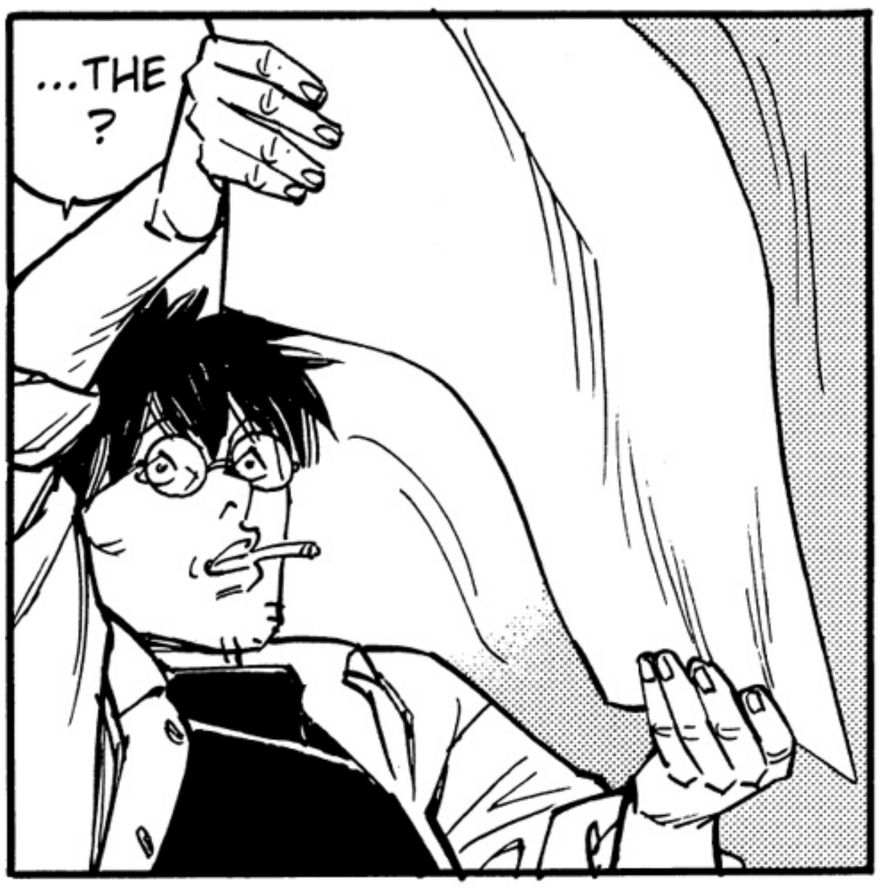
...HUH?

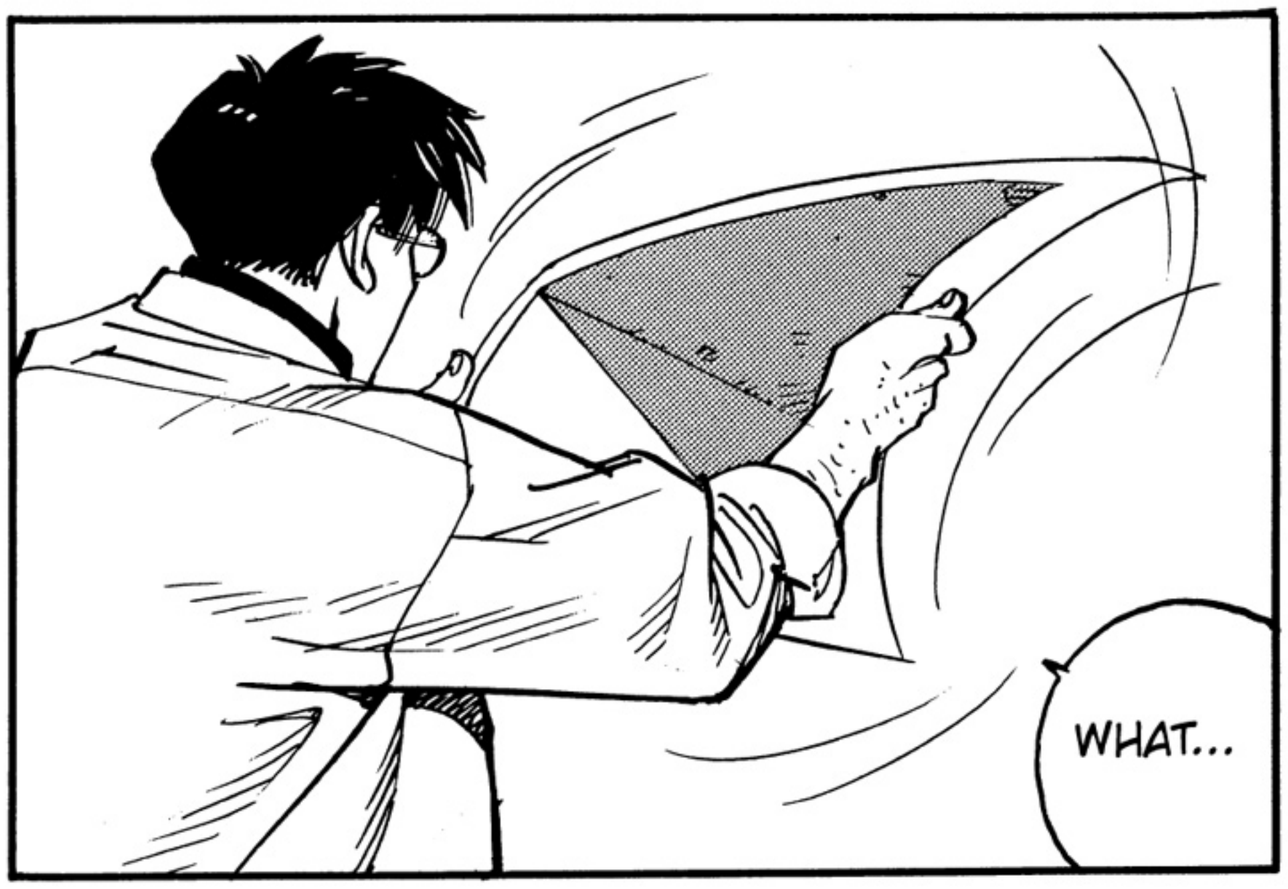
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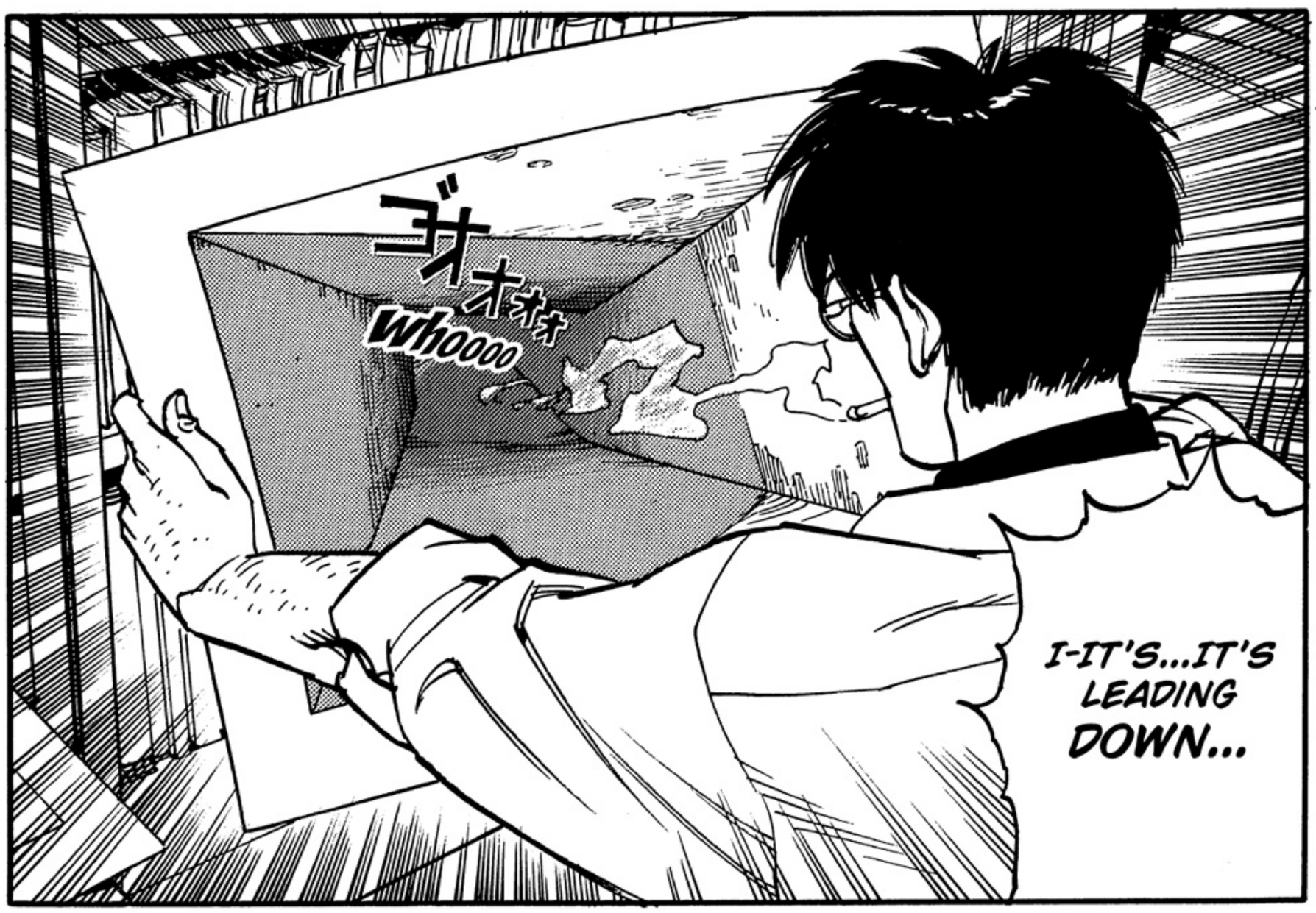
NOW I'M HEARING THINGS...

...I GUESS THAT'S THE LAST STAGE OF THE CRACKUP.


23
24


...THE
?


WHAT...


ゴオオオ
Whoooo
I-IT'S...IT'S
LEADING
DOWN...



ゴオオォォ
whoooooo
NOW WHAT'S THAT...
... CORRECTION. SECOND-TO-LAST STAGE.
HA, HA. COOL.
ゴオオォ
roaarrr
ゴオオォ
roaarrr
...YOU'RE NOT GETTING RID OF ME THAT EASILY, ASSHOLE ...!
HEY... HEY, WAIT A MINUTE ...
ゴオオォ
roarrr
ゴオオォ
roaarrr
WHOA !!

ゴオッ

roarrrrrr

roarr
...

トン tmp

flap

mrrr

...?


WHOOOOO
EEEYAH!!
WHOOOOOO
IT'S...
IT'S...
...UH-OH.
WHOOOOO
WHOOOOOO
...AN EXIT?


HTI
KLANGG

ゴトン
tunk
EH...?
?!
fwoosh!
OW!!
OW!!
OW!!
ゴロゴロ
bam!
...HURT!!
THAT...
um...
ドシ
smack!
OOF!!

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

SA... SATOKO ?!

ENOUGH OF THIS FOOLISH-NESS!!

spak

KRKK

KRKK

BUT...

...RUN!!

klak ガン

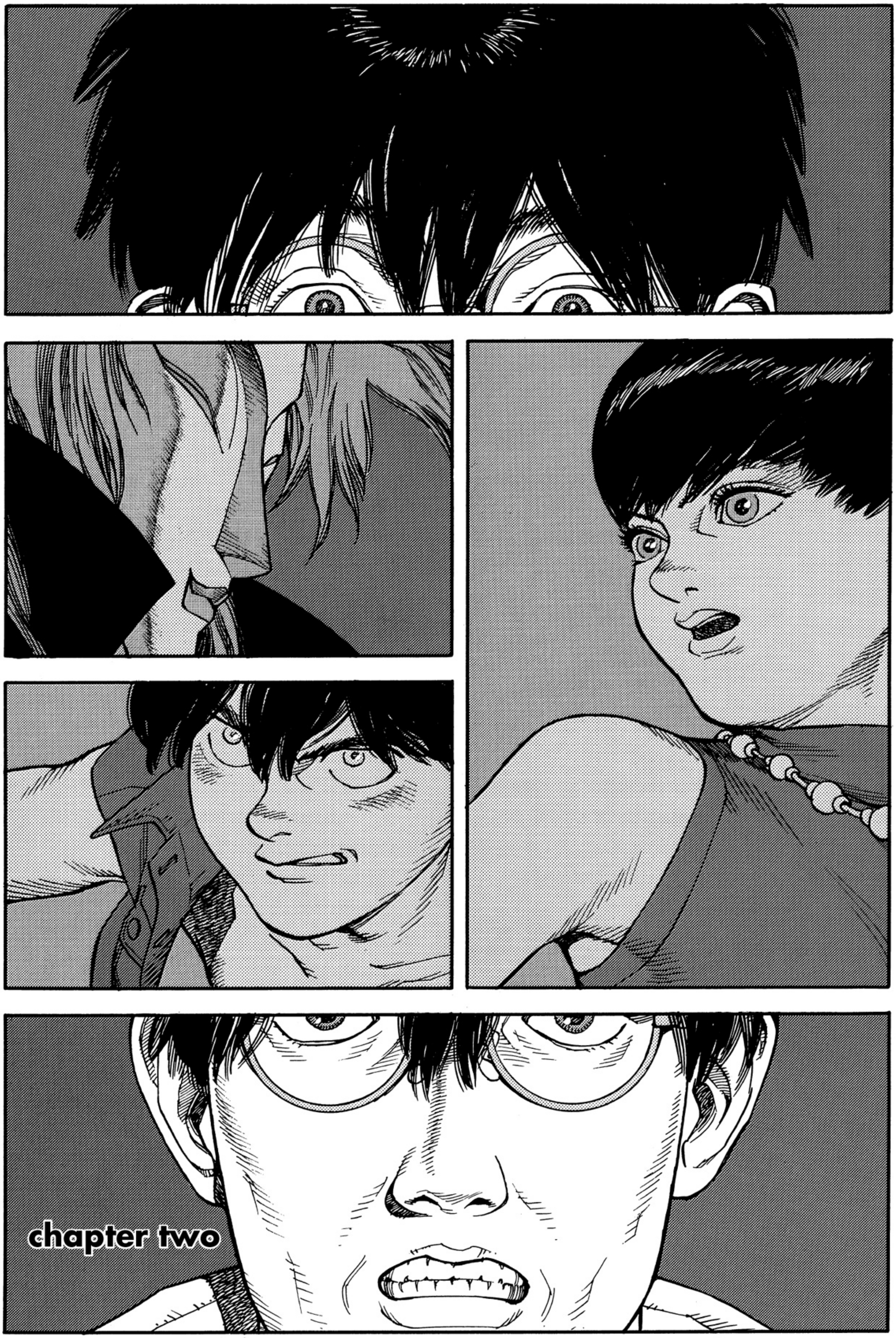
chak ガチャッ

KABOOM!!

...!!

...WHAT'S HAPPENING ...?!

RESONANCE OPUS


chapter two

ズズン
krrkkkk
ドカン
WHOOM
rrrrumble
YAAAA !!
shoom
...!!
shhhff
N-NO! I'M GONNA ...!

NO! NOOO ...!

EEYAAA!!

HANG ON...!!

ガッ

clutch

Y-Y-YOU SAVED ME...!

JUST RETURNING THE FAVOR.

hahh... hahh... hahh...

...!!

EH? HOW DO YOU...

SATOKO... IT *IS* YOU.

H-HEY ...

HE'S ...!

KA KA KA

AWAWA

ドボン
splassh

SOME DREAM. WHY IS IT SO COLD IN HERE, THOUGH--

...B-BUT IT WAS J-JUST THE DEADLINE.

TH-THOUGHT I WAS *D-DEAD...*

gasp!

GOOD, YOU'RE AWAKE! LUCKY FOR US WE LANDED IN THAT POOL...

UM

I *DREW* THAT POOL...

?

I'm still dreaming.

...I drew all of this.

I drew that building...

...And her voice is just the way I imagined it.

SO... SOFT...

CAN I... AGAIN...?

EH...?

YOU OKAY...?

...

...HEY! WHO THE HELL *ARE* YOU, ANYWAY? HOW DO YOU KNOW ME...?!

yank

LOOK, MAYBE YOU JUST HIT YOUR *HEAD*...

...DRAWING MANGA HAS MADE ME CRAZY...

sob! IT'S FINALLY HAP-PENED ...

WHAT THE...?!

WHRRRR

...!

ヒヤッ

ka-chak

WHAT... WHAT'S IT W-WAITING FOR...?

AH...!

WHUP WHUP

BRRRMMMM

WHRRRR

OH...IT'S *THOSE* GUYS.

BRRRRRMMMM

YOU KNOW. AFTER YOU FREE EVERYONE FROM THE BRAINWASHING, HE COMES TO GET YOU...

HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY ...

YEAH...SPECIAL FORCES. THIS IS THE SCENE WHERE THE CHIEF SHOWS UP...

...WAIT A MINUTE! CHIEF? THE *CHIEF'S* HERE...?!

SCENE ...?

HUH?

...*YOU'RE A FED, AREN'T YOU...?!*

...UNIT THREE, COME IN! ANY WORD ON THOSE TWO WE SAW ON THE 63RD FLOOR...?!

...

SATOKO! I WAS SO WORRIED! YOU'RE SAFE...?

CHIEF!

...DON'T MOVE! HANDS IN THE AIR!!

LOWER YOUR WEAPONS! SHE'S WITH US...!

.....

ガチャガチャガチャ tmp tmp tmp tmp

HA! WELL, THE MASQUE WOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT THE ANTI-PSYCHIC SQUAD...

WHOA... COOL.

AM I, CHIEF...? HOW DO I EVEN KNOW IT'S YOU I'M TALKING TO...AND NOT THE ***MASQUE?!***

?!

HE GOT THE DROP ON THE MASQUE ...

HUH? ME? I'M SORTA... INVOLVED IN THIS...

WHO'S *THIS* GUY?

...THE COPTER ...!

ドカーン BAROOOM

...!!

ドゴッ whoom

ドゴン thud

ドサッ bam

...IS HE DEAD?

HEY...

rrrummbll

ゴオオオ

N-NO... THIS ISN'T REAL...

...!

TARGET IN SIGHT... OPEN FIRE!!

OPEN FIRE!

タタタ

bbrrrttt

キンキンキン
spakk spakk spakk
whoom whoom
LOOK OUT !!
AH...!
klak

LIN IS SUPPOSED TO BE HERE...! HE...

BUT... BUT *THIS* PART IS ALL ***WRONG*** ...!

...I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT SIMPLY GETTING OUT OF HERE *ALIVE.*

HE'S A *MONSTER!!* HOW CAN WE BEAT HIM...?!

AS FOR ME...

STOP YOUR BABBLING, ALL RIGHT? LIN'S WOUNDED... HE CAN'T HELP US NOW!

W-WE NEED LIN! HE'LL KILL US...

...THE MASQUE!

...YOU'RE NOT GETTING RID OF ME THAT EASILY...

HE WON'T...

SHIT!

HE...

BOOM

FFFT

BRRRTTT

AAAAA!

キンッ plink

hkkk

BBRRRTTT

ドガッ
fwoom
gasp!
RRRRRMMM
UWAA!!

OWWW!! SHIT...

YAAAA!!

...I HATED *DIE HARD!!*

...ATOM! LET'S GO!

SEE HOW *YOU* LIKE IT FOR A CHANGE.

HEH-HEH. *SUCKER!*

...

SHE GOT AWAY SAFE.

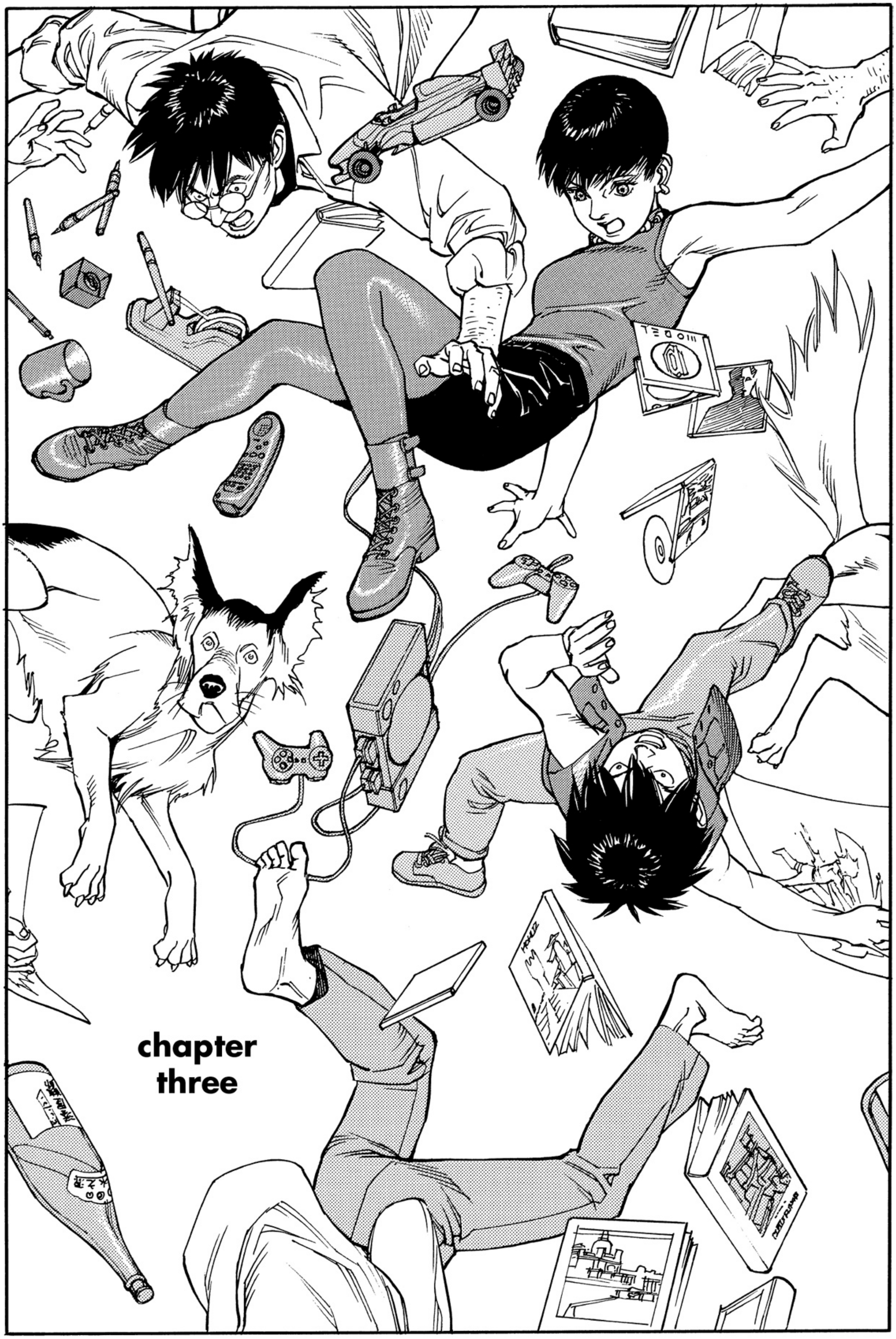
...DON'T WORRY ABOUT SATOKO.

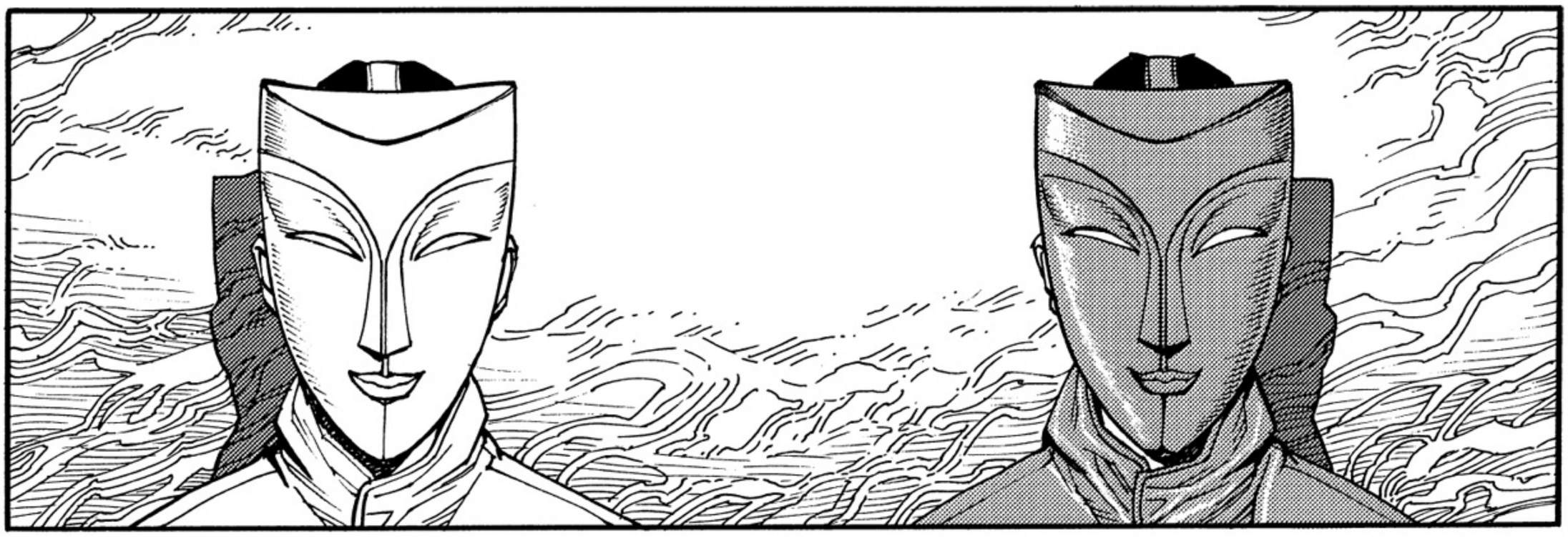
I SHOULD JUST DIE?!

WHAT?! YOU THINK I SHOULD ACCEPT MY ROLE?!

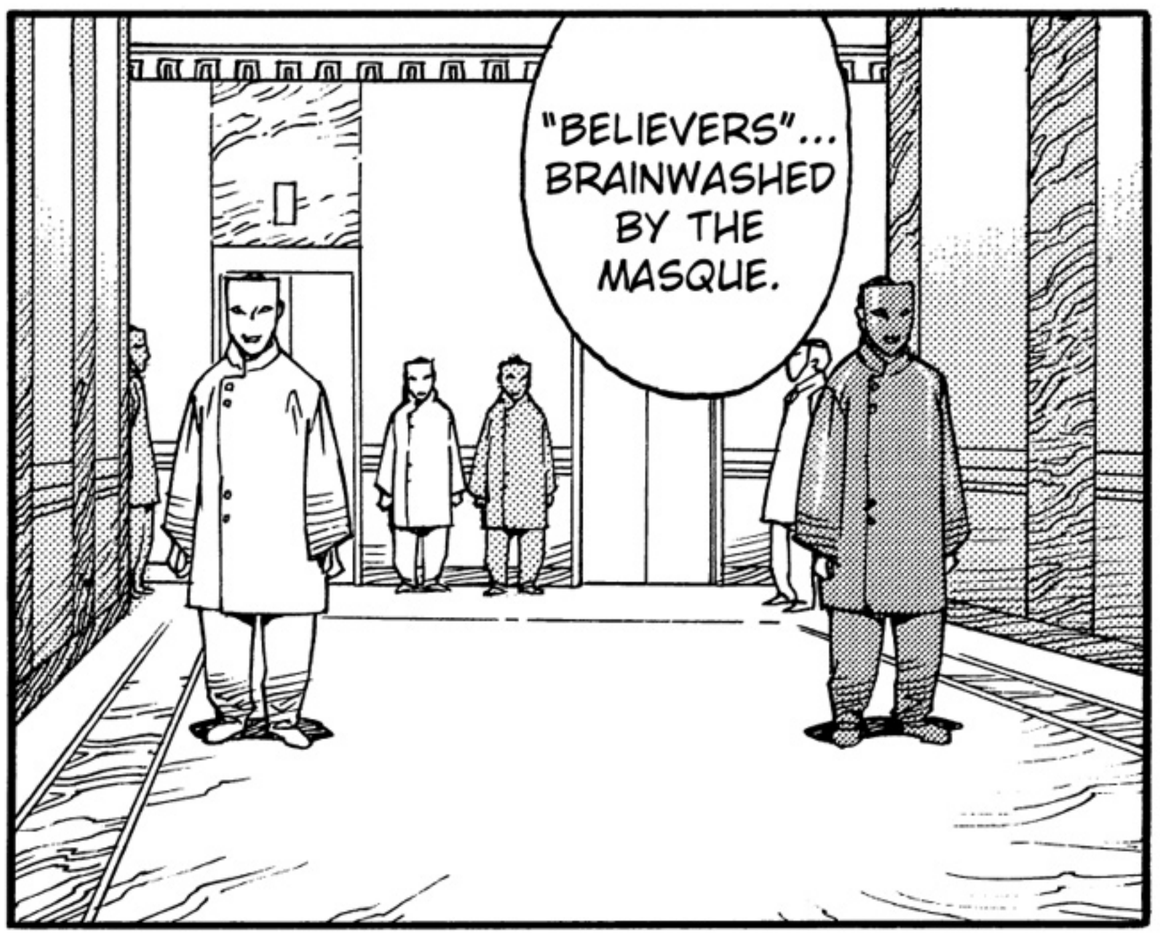
...THIS IS NEVER GOING TO HAPPEN!

RESONANCE OPUS


chapter
three



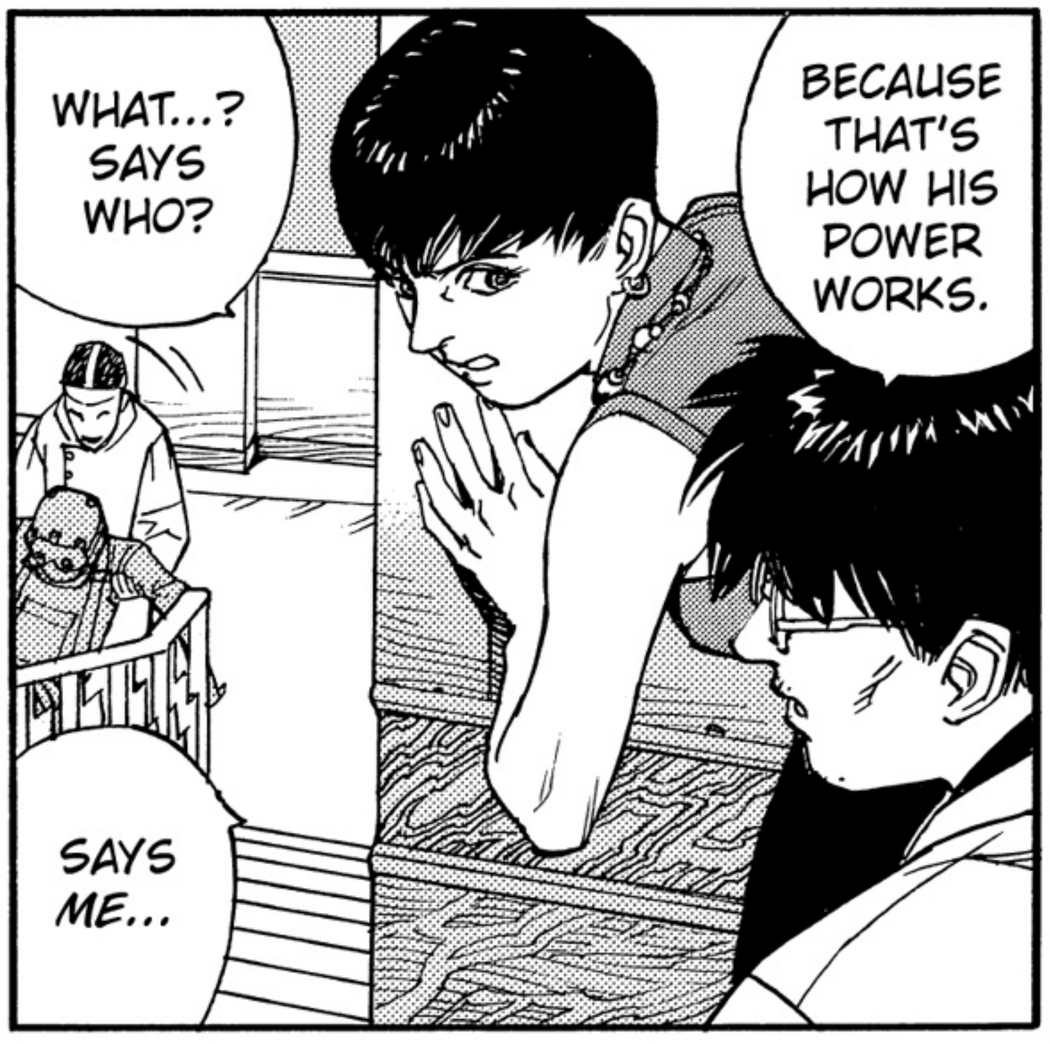

WE'LL HAVE TO SNEAK PAST THEM.


"BELIEVERS"... BRAINWASHED BY THE MASQUE.


HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY KNOW THAT?!
BUT IF WE DEFEAT THE MASQUE, THEY'LL BE FREE...


...THIS HURTS EVEN WORSE THAN IT LOOKS.
OWW...




WHAT...? SAYS WHO?
SAYS ME...
BECAUSE THAT'S HOW HIS POWER WORKS.

EH? CHIKARA. CHIKARA NAGAI.

RIGHT, RIGHT. WHAT'S YOUR NAME ...?

I'VE ALWAYS HATED BLOOD...!

QUIT WHINING, WILL YOU...?

GREAT. NOW I'M JUST GONNA BLEED...

Satoko Miura

...YOUR MOTHER GAVE IT TO YOU. I DON'T WANT TO STAIN IT...

BUT THIS HANDKER-CHIEF...

...HERE. THAT'LL DO UNTIL YOU GET TO A HOSPITAL.

SOUNDS LIKE I'VE HEARD IT BEFORE ...

HOW DO YOU KNOW THE DETAILS OF MY LIFE...?!

...WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY ?!

CREATOR OF *WHAT?*

THIS MANGA.

...I'M THE CREATOR.

...THIS DREAM ...?

OKAY, I ADMIT THINGS ARE A LITTLE OUT OF WHACK EVER SINCE LIN CAME THOUGH THAT HOLE AND STOLE THE LAST PAGE...THAT'S HOW I FELL INTO...

...MANGA, ALL RIGHT? THIS ONE! THIS ONE RIGHT HERE WE'RE IN! IT'S CALLED RESO-NANCE! *SATOKO MIURA IS ITS MAIN CHARACTER! YOU!*

"MANGA" ...?

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT THAT? IF I DO, I'LL SEE *EVERYTHING* ...

MAYBE YOU NEED A DIFFERENT KIND OF HOSPITAL.

YOU'RE A TELEPATH. CHECK AND SEE IF I'M LYING!

?!

OVER HERE! I HEARD VOICES ...!

UM...

YEAH, YEAH ...

GIMME A HAND HERE.

ズルズルズル skkrrkkk

biff! ドカッ

ボグッ pow!

UGH!

OOF!

IT'S CREEPY WEARING THESE. THE MASQUE USES THEM FOR BRAINWASHING ...

WELL THEN, YOU SHOULD BE COOL WITH IT.

THIS HAS GOTTA BE THE OLDEST PLOY IN COMICS ...

UM... YEAH, I DID.

...BUT THEN YOU MUST KNOW THAT...MR. CREATOR.

WE REPORT.

klak

knock knock

THE LORDLING OF A ROBOT KINGDOM. WHY DO YOU BRAINWASH THEM? *WHO* ARE YOU ...?

パタン

slam

WE KNOW THAT TWO INFILTRATORS REMAIN. THEY WILL BE CAPTURED WITHOUT FAIL.

WE HAVE SWITCHED TO RESERVE ELECTRICAL POWER AND RESTORED TRANSMISSION TO ALL BELIEVERS' MASKS.

YES, SIR!

THAT FEMALE DETECTIVE AND THE STRANGE MAN...DO NOT LET THEM ESCAPE.

YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF I REFUSE...? YOU SOUND LIKE A MANGA VILLAIN. "GUIDANCE," YOU SAY? ALL YOU WANT IS CONTROL--

ALLOW ME TO GRANT YOU UNDER-STANDING. AND FAITH.

IN THEIR HEARTS THEY LONG FOR THIS TRANQUILITY. I WILL SPREAD UNTIL ALL HAVE EVOLVED.

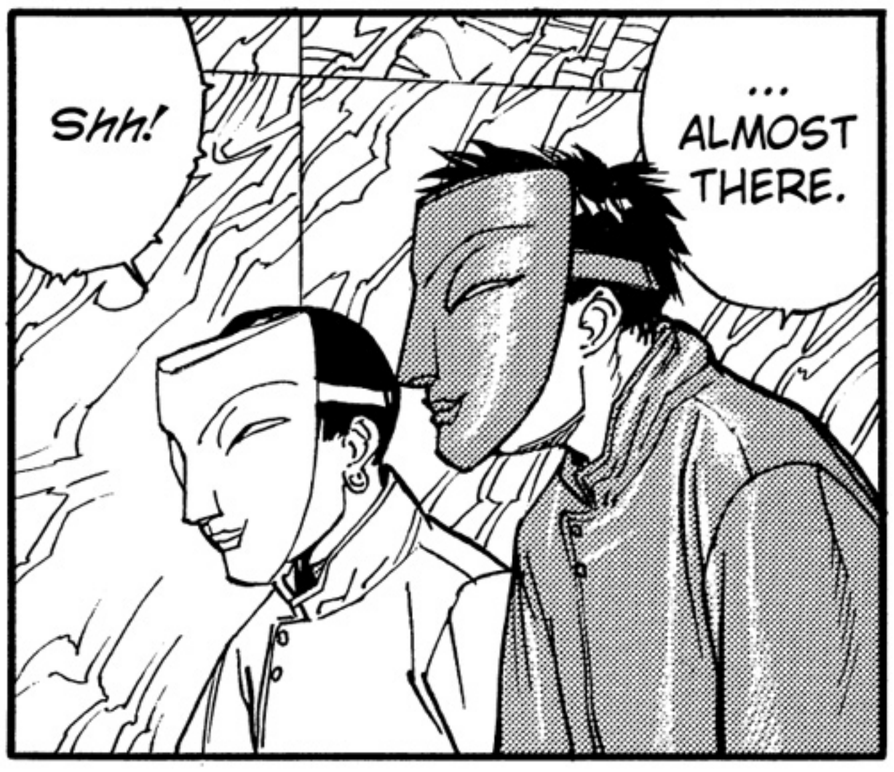
THERE ARE MILLIONS WAITING FOR MY GUIDANCE. LONGING TO SHED THE EMPTY SHELL OF "INDIVIDUALITY" AND DISCOVER MY BLISS OF BELONGING...

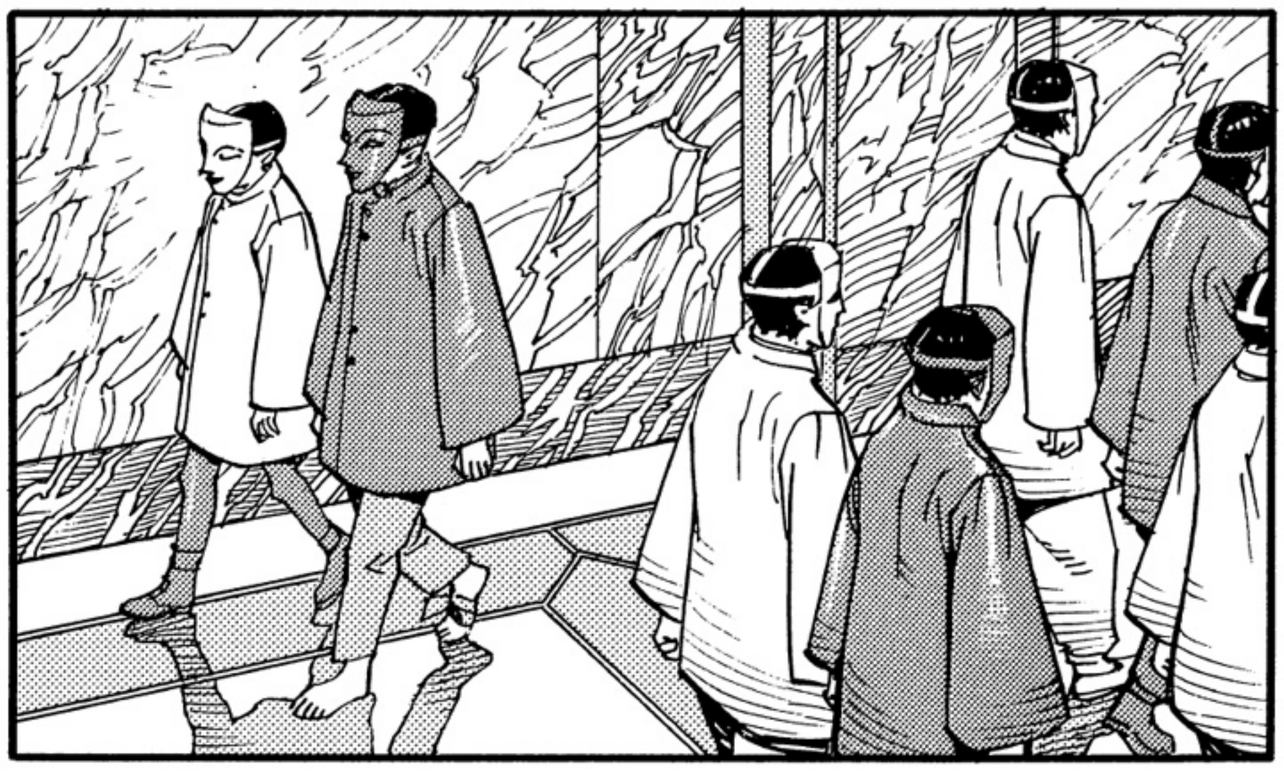
I AM NO ONE. AND YET, I AM... SOMEONE.

NO. I WANT TO BE GOD.

CONTROL ...?

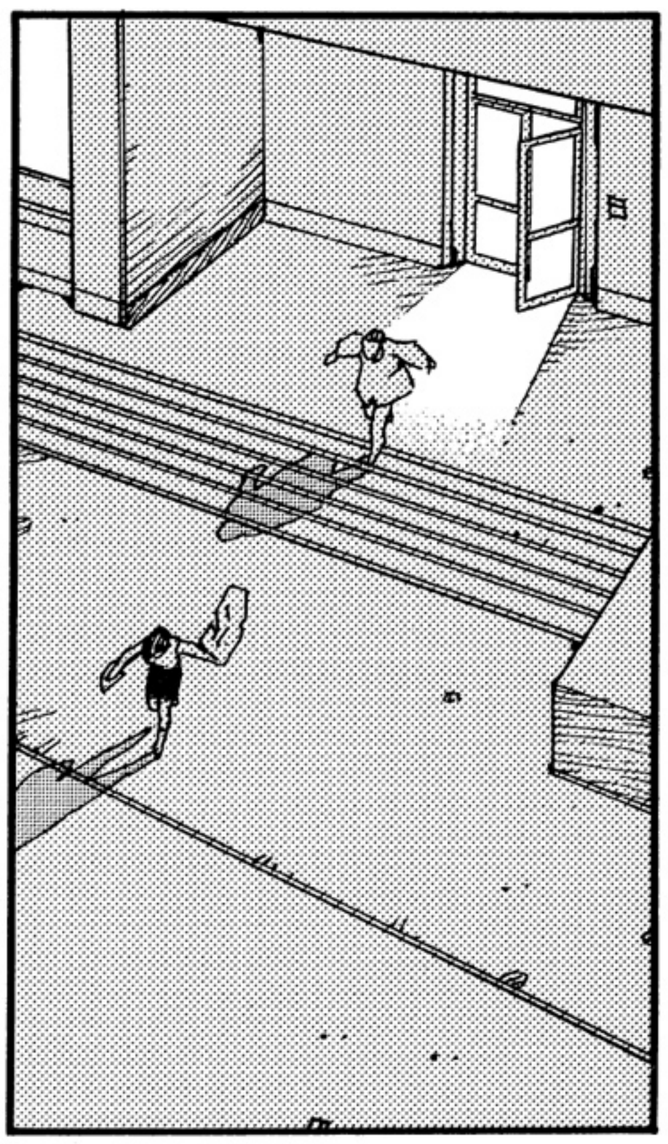



Shh!
... ALMOST THERE.




HURRY...! GET IN...


タ..タ
tmp tmp

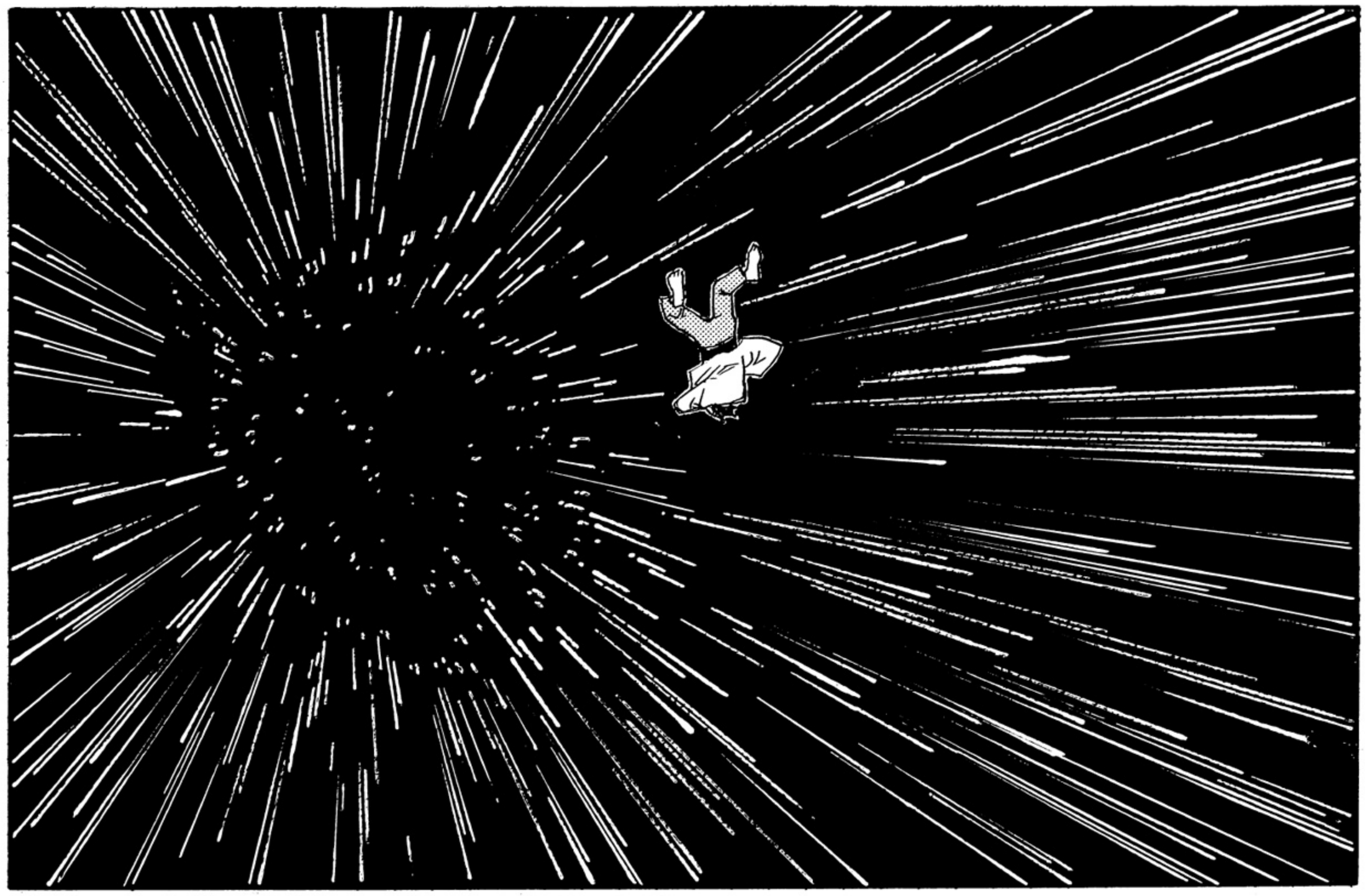


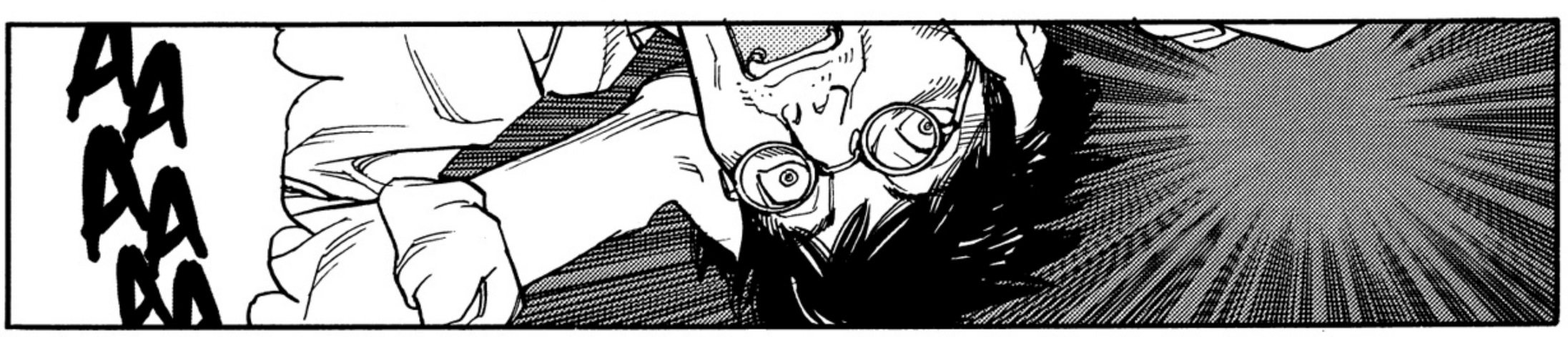
BUT...

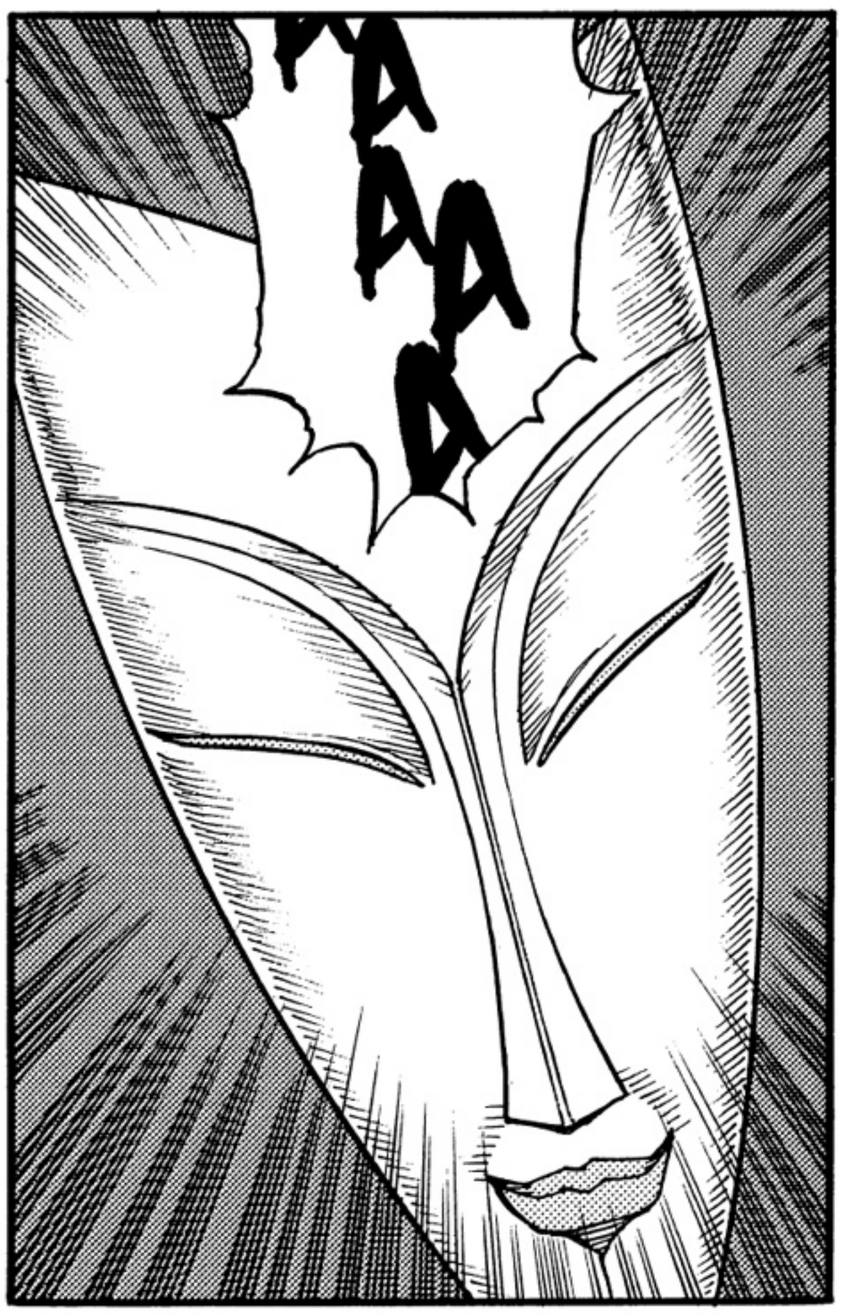
WH... WHAT ...?!

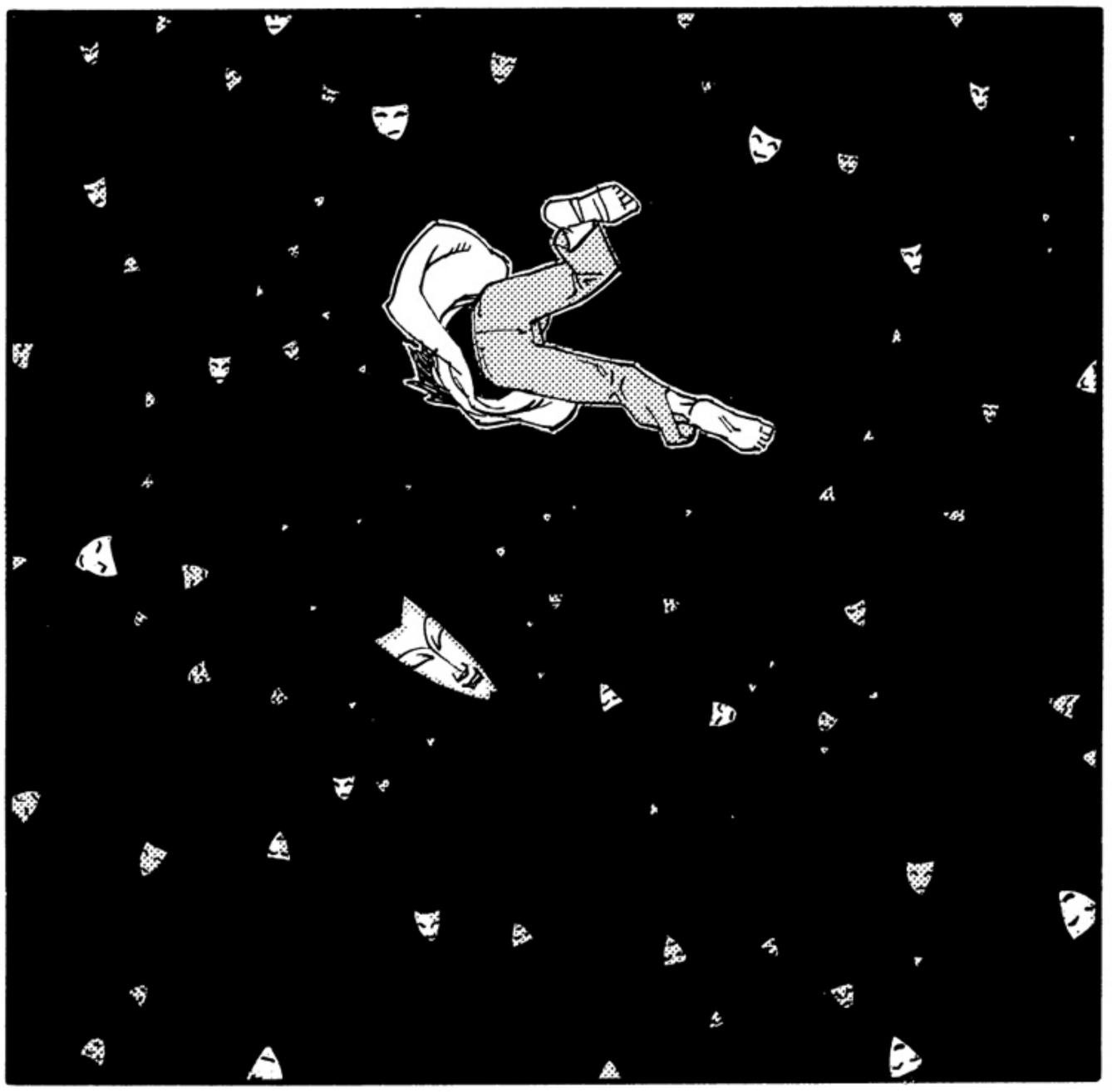
...AAA!!

...?




AA
AA
AA


AA
AA
A



AAAAAAA

?!

...NO!!

AND THEN...

W-WAIT!!

WELL, THERE IS ONE...

YOU KISSING ME?

I'M TELLING YOU THAT'S IMPOSSI-BLE.

SILLY.

AAAGHKK

BOOOOM

I-I KNOW!!

BIG BROTHER!

HAHH

HAHH HAHH

WHAT?

DOOOM

KATOKO...

ME...?

WH... WHAT?!

I-I DON'T NEED IT.

WHAT IS THIS ...?

SHUT UP, BASTARD !!

...YOUR POWER.

SHOW ME...

¿...?

DON'T WORRY, SATOKO.

...SHALL BE GRANTED !!

DON'T WORRY. I'LL PROTECT YOU.

EH...?!

hahh

hahh

SATOKO ?

hahh

AH

thmp

hahh

hahh

rrrippp

bam

I... ME...?!

hahh

hahh

AAA!

AAA!

THANK YOU.
I DON'T KNOW.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, SATOKO.
HA HA HA! YOU CAN'T STOP ME!
WHAT ?! LET'S GO!
LEAVE ME ALONE!!
THIS !!
...?!
...AND HIM...
...!
MEI-CHAN ...?
MISATO... ME...? KOJI?!
MR. SAWAMURA?! MOTHER...?!
LAST ...
WHAT'S NEXT?
EVERY-THING COMES FROM HIS HEAD...
HUGYAK
ROARRR

TELL ME...

!!

ドゴゴゴ

bam bam bam

HAHHH

ドガキ

whoooooo



ボン
smack

グルグルグル
tweet tweet tweet

I WAS JUST...IN YOUR HEAD?!

rattle rattle rattle
ガランガランガラン

uh?

And I, someone's puppet?! The drawing that brat had...!

Absurd! This world, make-believe...?!

...?!

カツン カツン カツン

kritch kritch kritch

THIS IS HOW YOU BECOME A BELIEVER, CHIEF HANAMURA.

カツン カツン

kritch kritch

ﾊﾞﾂ

fwoosh

...NOW YOU WILL BRING THOSE TWO TO ME.

!!



chapter four

キャアアア!!

skreech

KYAA!

H-HEY ...!

オオ

rrrrrrrr

オオオ

VRRRRRRR

I MADE YOU TOO HOT-HEADED...

...feh.

YOU'RE GONNA KILL US BOTH...!

S-SLOW DOWN ...!

THAT A PERSON WITH SERIOUS INJURIES JUST WALTZED OUT OF HERE ON THEIR OWN ACCORD...?!

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY...?!

BAM

...

SEE? I KNEW YOU WOULD YELL AT HER.

UM...

YES, MA'AM... THEY DID.

...Answer me!!

Lin, where are you...?

Calm down. Clear my mind...

AND AS FOR LIN, I WROTE HIM WITH AMAZING RECUPERATIVE POWERS...

LOOK, SHUT UP, WILL YOU...?

...LIN, LIN, LIN. GIVE IT A REST, SATOKO.

crunch crunch

IT'S NOT LIKE SHE CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

...SATOKO'S BETTER OFF NOT KNOWING.

WHAT THAT GUY HAS TO SAY...

OKAY, NOW WATCH THIS.

COMING INTO THE LAST LAP, NUMBER 12, KURODA, HAS THE LEAD...!

DASHING FOR THE FINISH LINE NOW-- WILL IT BE YOSHIMATSU? OR KURODA...?

...IT'S THE FINAL TURN! YOSHIMATSU AND KURODA ARE NECK AND NECK!!

YAAA!!

wham

skreee

...OR NEITHER.

ピーッ pop!

WHAT AN UPSET, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! AND WHAT A PAYOFF FOR ANYONE BOLD ENOUGH TO HAVE BET ON THIS LONG SHOT FOR THE WIN...!!

crunch crunch crunch

krasshhh

WITH A MULTI-BIKE PILE-UP JUST METERS BEFORE THE END, IT'S NUMBER 8, KATAU, FIRST ACROSS THE LINE...!

...MIURA HERE.

beeep beeep beeep beeep

SATOKO! YOU'RE SAFE...?!

CHIEF...

THAT STRANGE GUY. IS HE WITH YOU?

LISTEN... NONE OF THE SPECIAL FORCES UNIT GOT OUT.

CH-CHIEF? YES, I'M OKAY!!

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU'D MAKE IT SOMEHOW, SATOKO.

WHAT, THAT LITTLE PUNK ...?!

NOT JUST YET, CHIEF. WE NEED TO FIND LIN FIRST.

WHERE ARE YOU HEADED? WE NEED TO GET TOGETHER TO WORK OUT OUR NEXT MOVE...

THAT'S GOOD.

YEAH, HE'S RIDING PASSEN-GER.

yawwn

I'VE BEEN CALLING LIN, BUT HE ISN'T PICKING UP. I'M GOING TO TRY TO FIND HIM...

WELL, WHERE IS HE ANYWAY ...?

龍

トントン
トントン
chop chop
chop chop

シャッ
shfff
シャッ
shfff

...HE'S HOME.

...AH.

HOW YA DOING, MEI...?

...HEY.

ガチャリ
kkchak

bop

I KNOW YOU'RE LYING. COME EAT.

JUST FINE! YOU KNOW I'M TOUGH...

WELCOME BACK. HOW ARE YOUR INJURIES...?

BETTER STUPID THAN SENILE...YOU OLD BAT.

STUPID AS EVER...!

WELL, *YOU'RE* NOT DEAD YET, SO YOU COME CRAWLING BACK HOME.

HMF.

SHIT. AREN'T YOU DEAD YET...?

WHY BOTHER? I BET YOU CAN COUNT IT THROUGH MY SHIRT, GRANNY.

LET'S SEE THOSE ILL-GOTTEN GAINS, BOY!

...OH, NO. YOU DID IT *AGAIN* ...?

WELL, WE'RE NOT *NORMAL*, ARE WE...?

WE'RE NOT ***MUTANTS*** ...!

...HAVING A MUTANT FAMILY SUCKS SOMETIMES.

plonk

THEY'RE GONNA CUT OFF OUR UTILITIES, BITCH...!

YEAH, HE'D *TOTALLY* FIX A MOTORBIKE RACE SO HE COULD WIN A 40-TO-1 WAGER! THAT'S *EXACTLY* HIS STYLE, GRANNY!

chomp chomp

YOU CAN'T ABUSE YOUR POWERS! THAT'S JUST LIKE THE MASQUE...!

YOUR *MIRACULOUS WIN* IS ALL OVER THE NET. SOMEONE WILL FIGURE IT OUT SOON ENOUGH, LIN.

UM...ANYWAY, WE DON'T NEED THIS. THAT LOTTERY TICKET YOU BOUGHT? IT'S GOING TO WIN.

I WAS RAISED BY A PSYCHIC RAISIN.

OH, I *UNDERSTAND* HIM, ALL RIGHT. I CAN ***SEE RIGHT THROUGH*** THE PUNK!

STOP FIGHTING, YOU TWO! YOU'D THINK A FAMILY OF ESPERS WOULD UNDER-STAND EACH OTHER BETTER...

I'VE BEEN OUT THERE HUSTLING TO PROVIDE FOR THIS FAMILY...

...BUT FOR THE PRESENT, I'M THE MAN OF THE HOUSE!

WELL, DAMN. YOU MAY BE ABLE TO SEE THE FUTURE, SIS...

AND I SUSPECT IT'S GOT TO DO WITH THAT PIECE OF PAPER...!

HORSESHIT, SONNY...! YOU'VE BEEN OUT THERE ON OTHER BUSINESS!

THE FOREIGN QUARTER... WATCH YOUR STEP IN HERE.

THIS WHERE YOU EXPECT TO FIND LIN?

...IF YOU FIND HIM, WHAT WILL YOU DO...?

MAYBE. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ANYMORE...

...IT'S HIS LIFE.

HE KNOWS HOW IMPORTANT THAT PICTURE IS...

BUT IT'S JUST A DREAM... RIGHT?

...

...I have to focus on finding Lin.

I can't worry about that right now.

...UNITS 10 AND 11 TO FOREIGN QUARTER, WARD 3. UNITS 23 AND 27, FORM A PERIMETER.

WE ARE IN SEARCH OF TWO SUSPECTS.

WWWHHHHRRRRRR

ONE SUSPECT MALE, IDENTITY UNKNOWN, ABOUT 30, ROUND GLASSES.

...TWO INDIVIDUALS BOMBED THE NAMELESS FAITH BUILDING AND FLED VIA CAR TO THE FOREIGN QUARTER.

I REPEAT ...

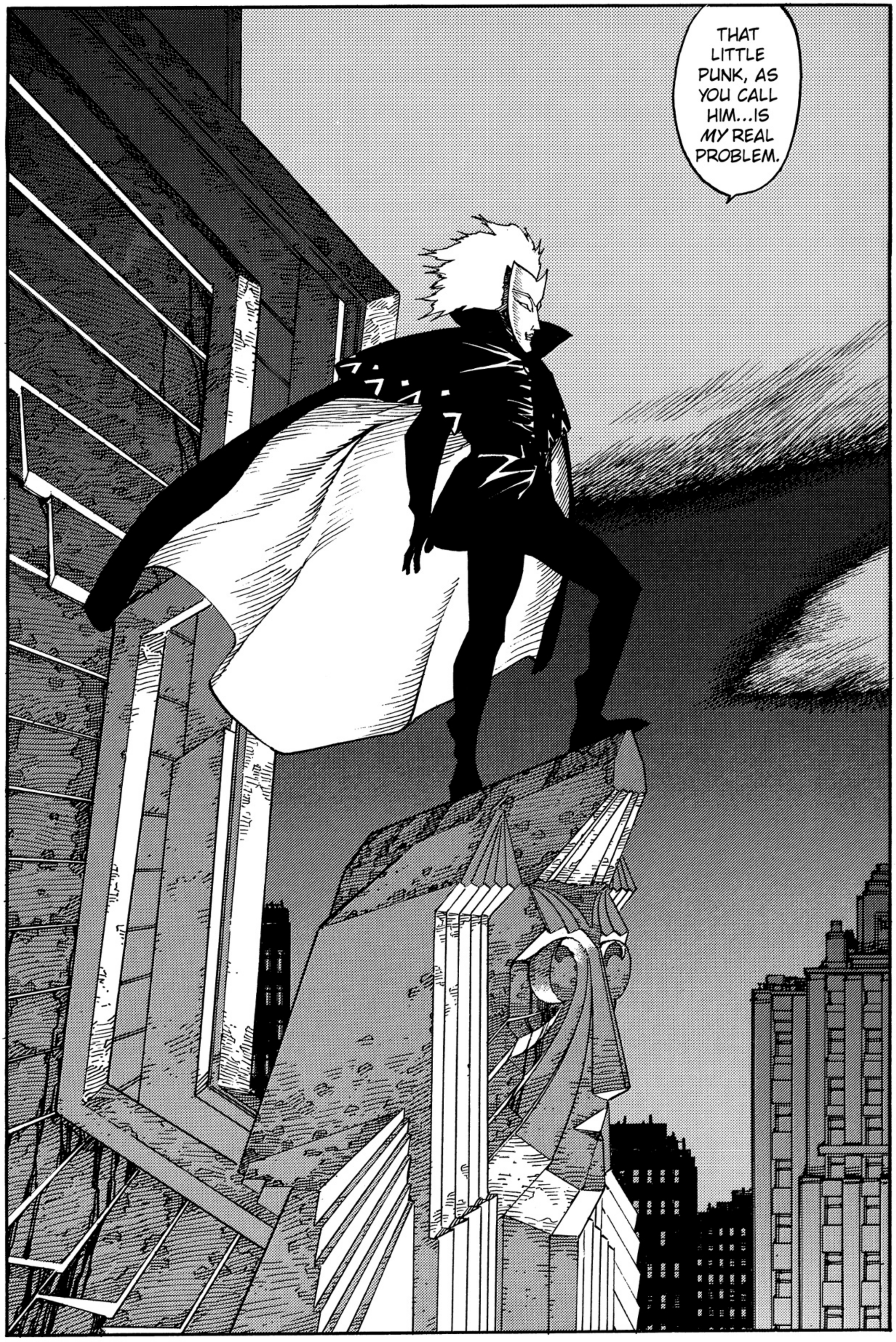
THE OTHER HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS AGENT SATOKO MIURA, NOW ROGUE.

BE AWARE OF HER MENTAL POWERS AND USE CAUTION.

SEAL OFF THE WARD AND APPREHEND THEM BOTH...!

whukkawhukka

バタバタ


THAT LITTLE PUNK, AS YOU CALL HIM...IS *MY* REAL PROBLEM.

DON'T ASK THE *DOGS*, MEI! LOOK INTO THE FUTURE! IS IT TRUE...?

WHAT DO *YOU* THINK, URAN...?

INCREDIBLE... I ONCE DREW SOMETHING SIMILAR...

...IS THAT THIS WORLD IS FICTION.

THE TRUTH...

DON'T TAKE YOUR FATE OUT ON THE FURNITURE, BOY!

FUCK THAT !!

bam! bam!

ガン bam

I'M GONNA DIE! MEI'S BLIND!! THE MASQUE'S BRAINWASHED ALL MY FRIENDS!! AND WHAT WILL ALL OUR STRUGGLING GET US...?

AREN'T YOU THE LEAST BIT ANGRY, GRANNY...?

SO HE MADE US EXIST JUST SO HE CAN PLAY WITH US? THAT'S FAIR...?

...IT'S THANKS TO THAT MAN WE EXIST AT ALL. YOU. ME. GRAN. ATOM AND URAN...

BUT...

AWWW, SHADDAP !!

NOW YOU WANT PEOPLE TO PLAY FAIR!

heh heh heh

AND END UP LIKE THE PICTURE...?!

SIMPLE. FIRST, I'LL KILL THE MASQUE.

I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING BEYOND THE DRAWING.

WHAT WILL YOU DO...?

HE'S TOO POWERFUL TO TAKE HEAD ON. EVEN I KNOW THAT...

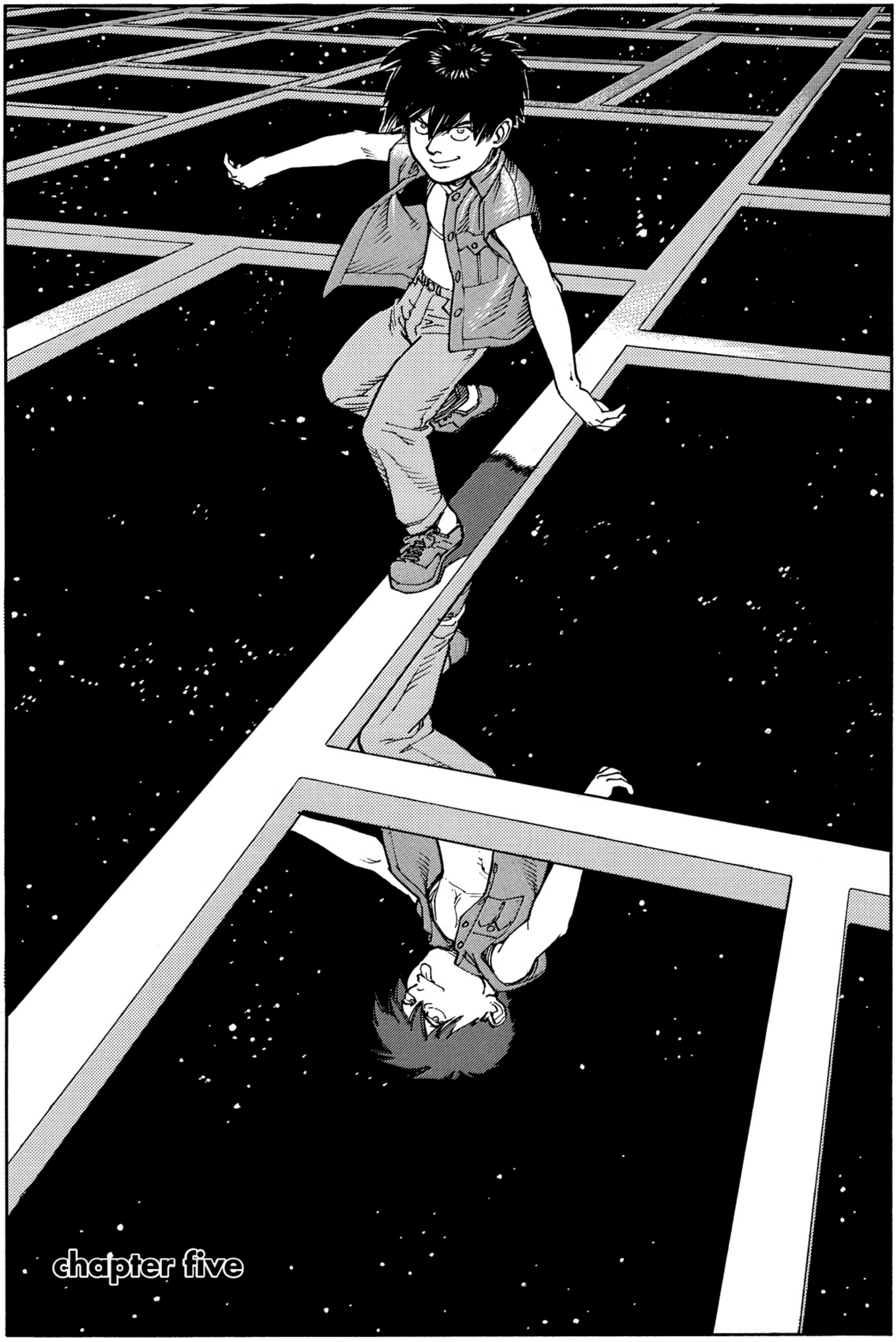
WHAT WAY? YOU'VE NEVER BEATEN HIM BEFORE...

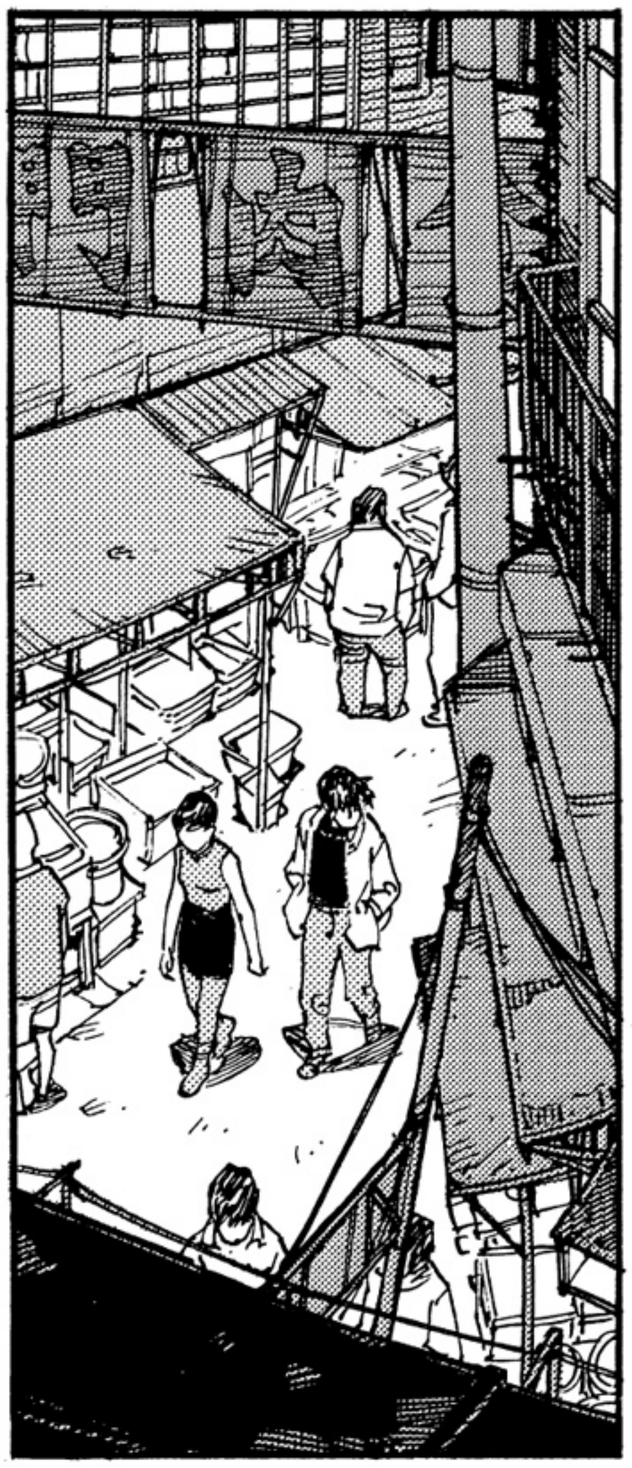
MAYBE NOT. MAYBE THERE'S ANOTHER WAY.

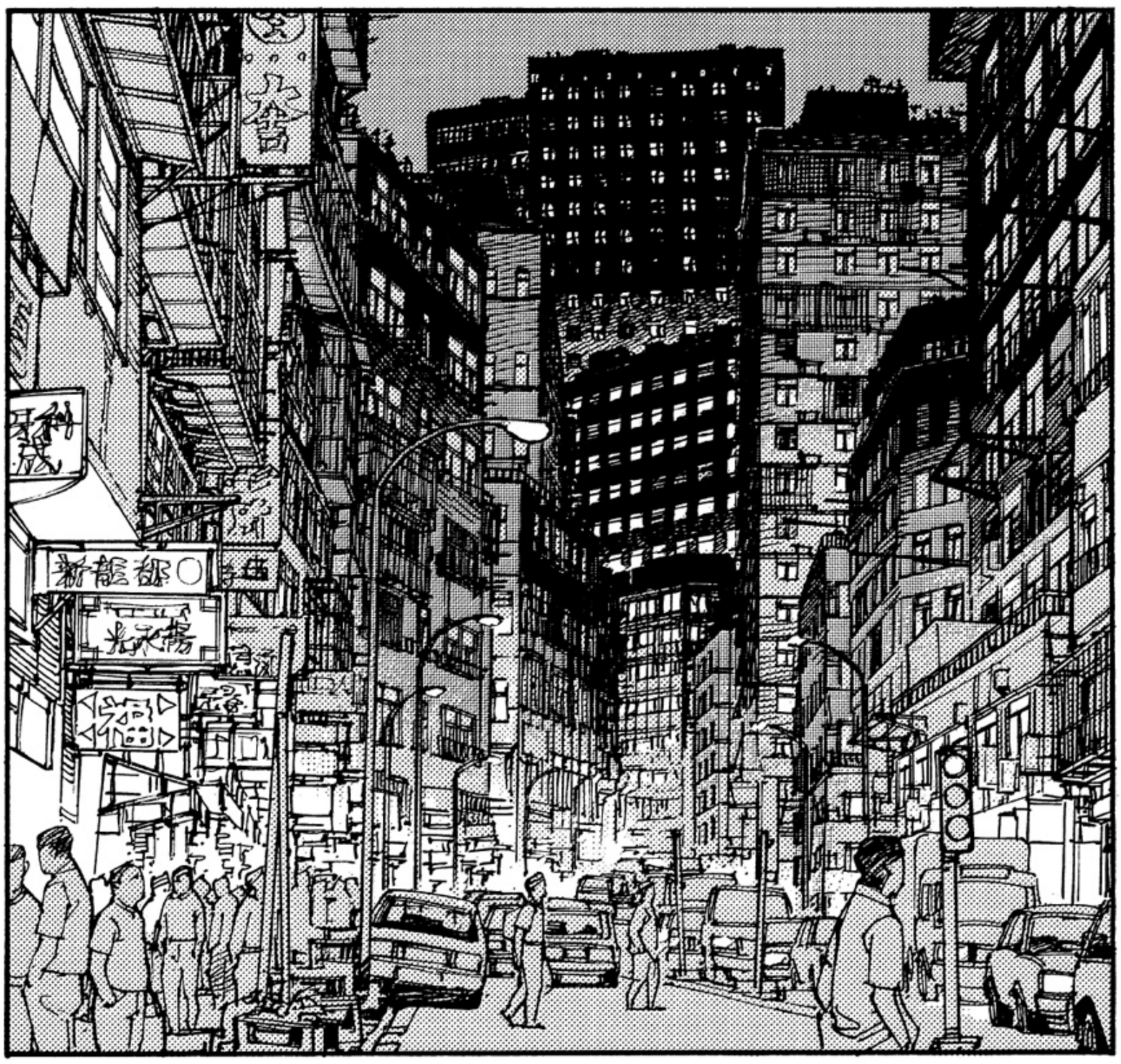
?

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SO I'LL USE A CHEAT CODE.

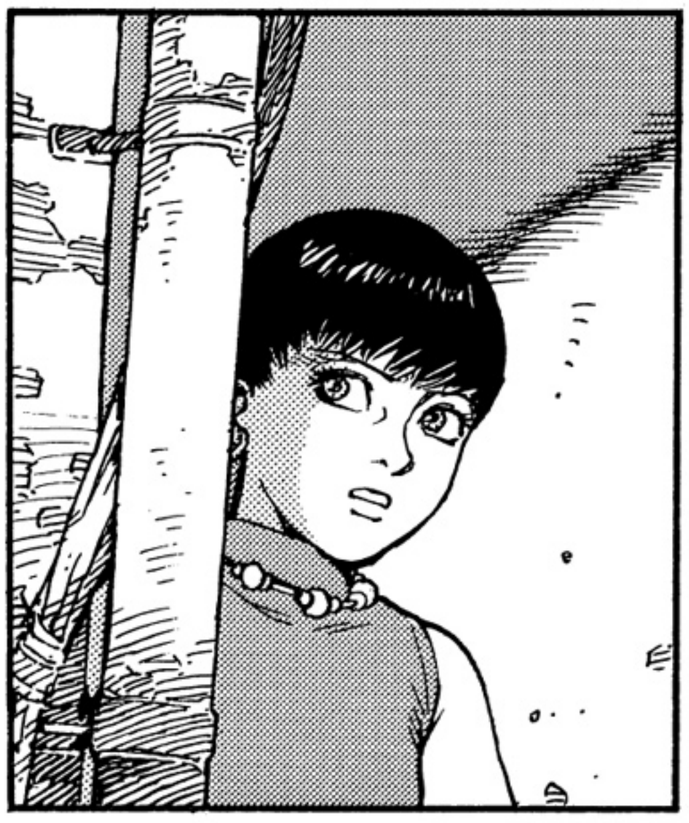

chapter five

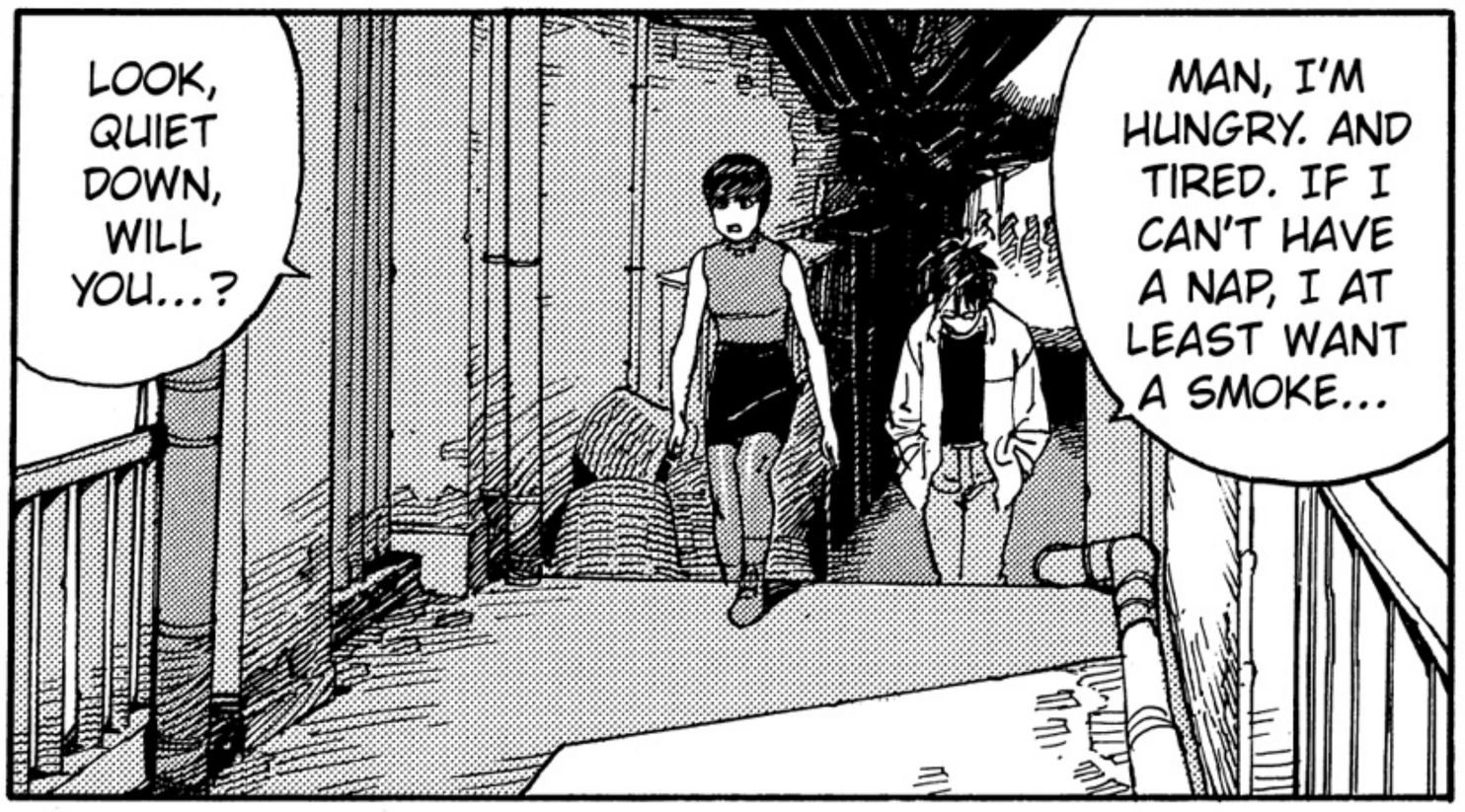



新龍都
光永場


HEY! LEAVE IT!!
... COULD I ACTUALLY EAT THIS...?






LOOK, QUIET DOWN, WILL YOU...?
MAN, I'M HUNGRY. AND TIRED. IF I CAN'T HAVE A NAP, I AT LEAST WANT A SMOKE...

SEE THEM? MORE OF THE MASQUE'S STOOGES.

YOU DID TOO!!

I KNOW. I *SAW* WHAT THEY SEE!

I SAW... I SAW EVERYTHING! IT WAS A TRIP...

Y- YEAH.

THOUGHT THEY'D NEVER MOVE! THOSE GOGGLES WORK THE SAME AS THE THINGS THEY HAD ON AT THE CHURCH...

THAT FROM THE GUY WHO'S GOT THIS ENTIRE WORLD IN HIS HEAD.

...I CAN'T RECALL IT CLEARLY. TOO BAD.

AFTER-WARDS, I...

HOW...?

HEH-HEH-HEH. ANYWAYS, LIN HAS A SET OF THOSE GOGGLES.

YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU TWO ESCAPED INTO THE SEWERS?

stomp

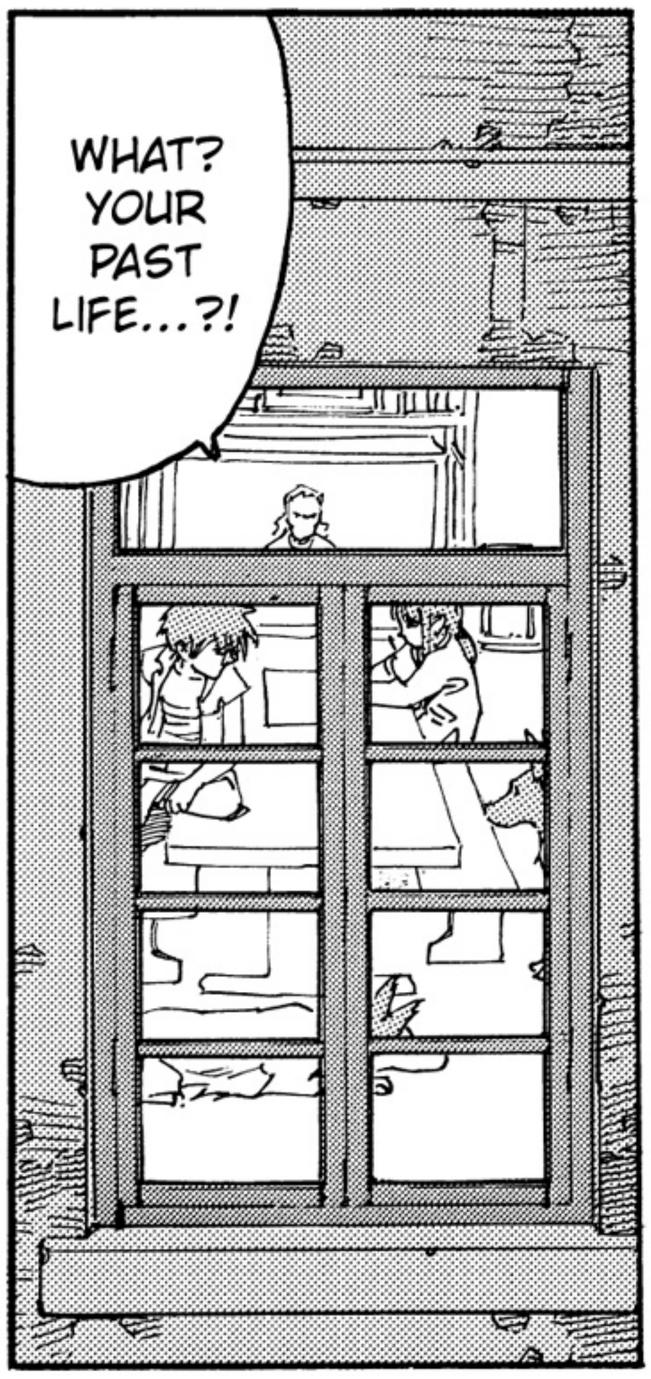
YOU KNOW, 15 YEARS AGO...?

BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT EASIER TO ***UNDERSTAND*** !!

YOU'RE NOT *LYING*...I GET THAT MUCH!!

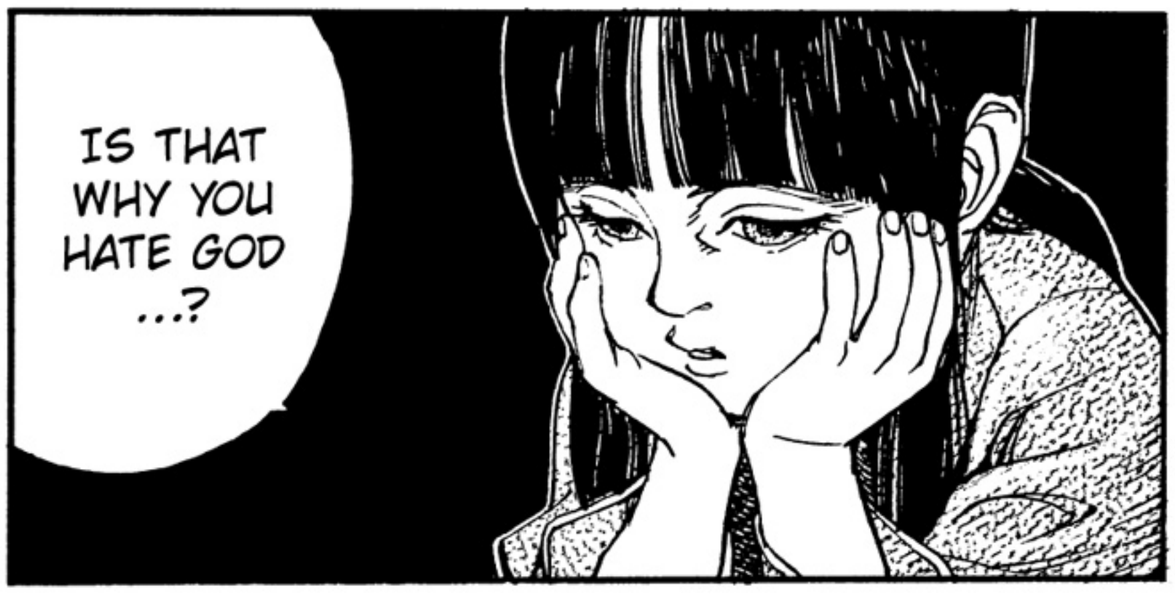
A LITTLE BIT...?

STARTING TO BELIEVE ME?


WHAT? YOUR PAST LIFE...?!


金龍
金龍


THAT WAS 15 YEARS AGO. I WAS REBORN TO FIGHT HIM...I WAS CREATED TO FIGHT HIM.
I KNOW I'VE FOUGHT THE MASQUE BEFORE. I WAS KILLED...BUT I MANAGED TO SAVE SATOKO. SHE WAS JUST A KID THEN.


IS THAT WHY YOU HATE GOD ...?


WHY DID I GET STUCK WITH THE JOB...?!


HE'S JUST THIS ASSHOLE WHO FUCKS WITH US...!
HE'S NOT GOD!

rattle rattle

カリカリ

WAIT, GRAN. WAIT FOR THE STORY.

...IS A CHEAT CODE YOU CAN USE TO BEAT THE MASQUE ...?!

YOU'RE MESSING *ME* ABOUT WITH THIS TALE OF YOURS, BOY. THIS PAST LIFE...

THOSE ARE HIS TRANCE GOGGLES...

YEP. AND OUR CHANCE.

ガチャ bam

I AIN'T RECOMMENDING THE EXPERIENCE... BUT I TRIED THEM ON ONCE.

THEY GIVE YOU A FEELING OF SOARING THROUGH THE UNIVERSE--OF ONENESS WITH EVERYTHING.

IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN. IT'S LIKE I WAS FLYING FOREVER...BUT THEN SOMEHOW RAN *OUT* OF FOREVER. I REALIZED OUR UNIVERSE HAD A WALL...AND I HAD KNOCKED MY WAY THROUGH IT.

FROM THERE, I UNDERSTOOD EVERYTHING. I SAW WHO MADE OUR WORLD, AND WHO IT WAS MADE FOR. SATOKO AND THE MASQUE. I WAS JUST A BIT PLAYER...AND I DECIDED I WASN'T GOING TO BE ANYMORE.

HOLES?

TERRI-FIED.

I SAW MORE THAN JUST WHAT WAS MADE...I SAW THE HOLES IN IT, TOO.

WERE YOU... FRIGHTENED?

PLACES WE NEVER *GO* TO...?

THE LAZY BASTARD NEVER ACTUALLY *FINISHED* OUR WORLD! HE ONLY BOTHERED WITH THE PLACES THAT *WE* GO TO! HE DIDN'T FILL IN THE REST. THIS WORLD IS FULL OF GAPS... HOLES. AND I KNOW HOW TO USE THEM.

THAT'S ***NOT*** *WHAT I MEANT ...!*

BOY, YOU ARE *NOT* RUNNING AWAY TO NORTH KOREA.

BUT YOUR PAST LIFE...

.....

...OWW!

I CAN'T HIDE ANYTHING FROM YOU...

...SHIT!!

THEY'RE COMING HERE...!

DON'T RESPOND, MEI.

SATOKO...!

WE CAN'T GET MIXED UP WITH THEM...

I KNOW YOU'RE IGNORING ME...! JERK!

LIN, WHY WON'T YOU ANSWER ...?!

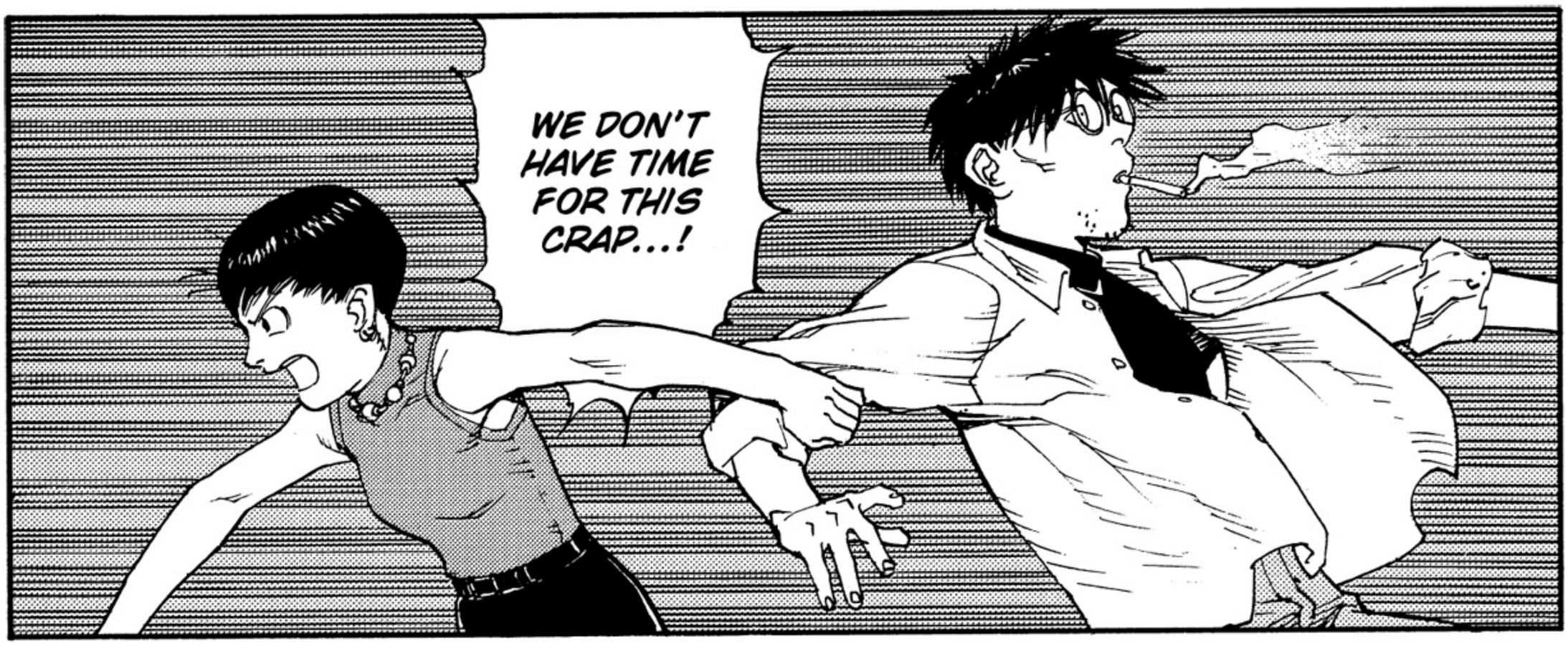
NO! NO! I WANT FIVE!

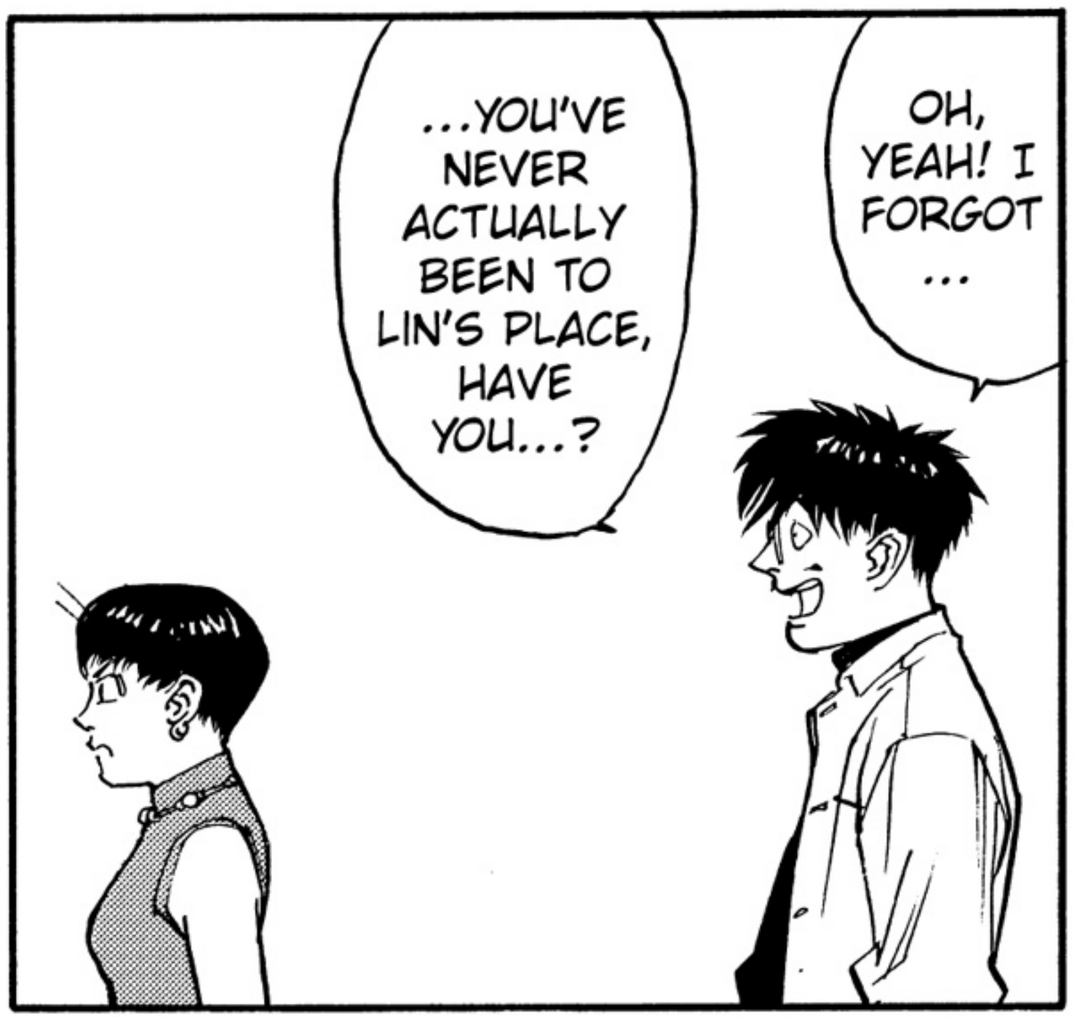
AW, JEEZ. WHERE DID HE GO...?

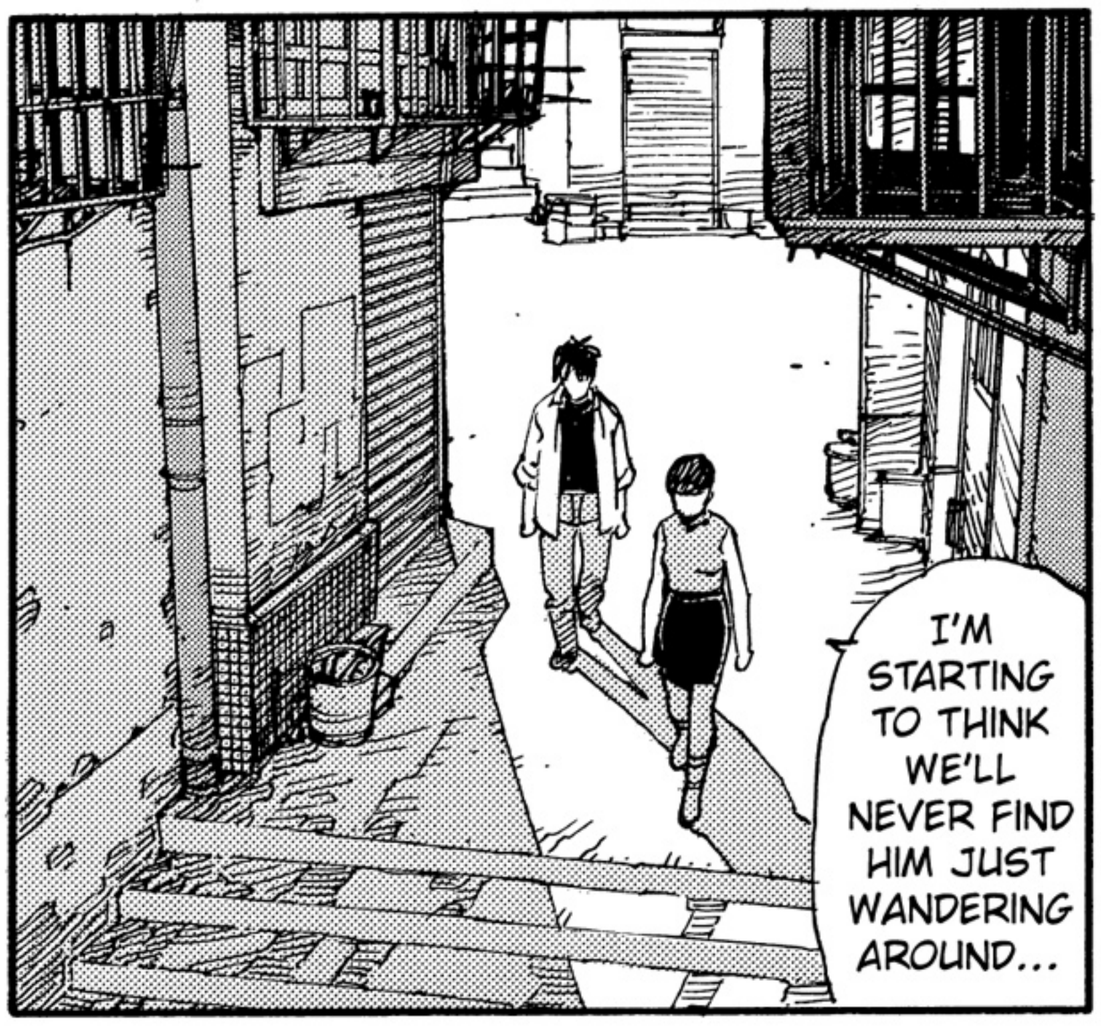
RIGHT. STEADY ...

...FINE. THREE IT IS.

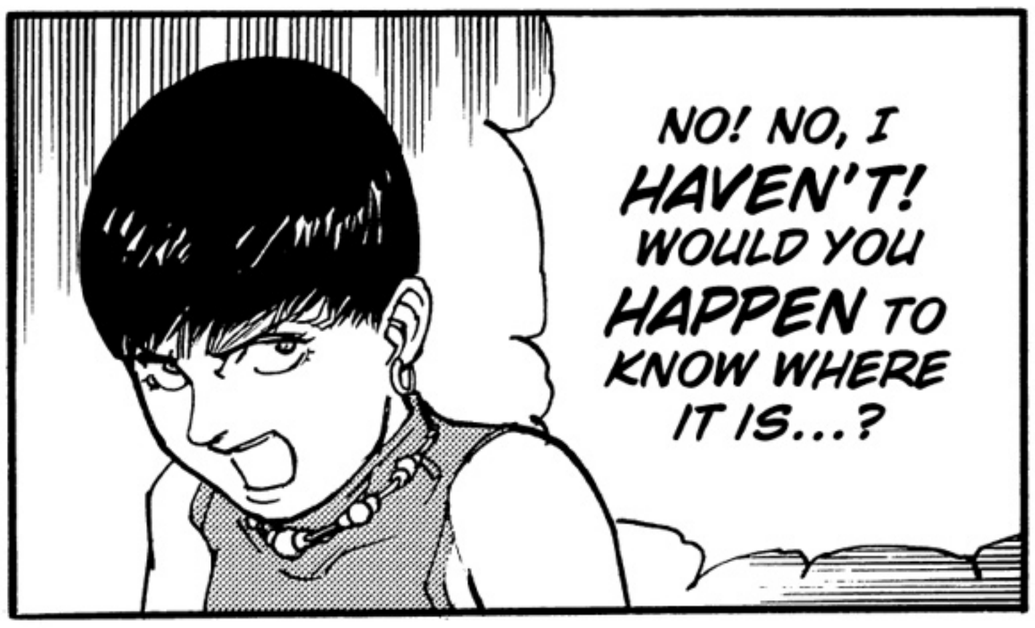
BUT CHANGE BACK. AND A LIGHT.


WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS CRAP...!


...YOU'VE NEVER ACTUALLY BEEN TO LIN'S PLACE, HAVE YOU...?
OH, YEAH! I FORGOT ...


I'M STARTING TO THINK WE'LL NEVER FIND HIM JUST WANDERING AROUND...


THAT'S WHERE IT IS...?!
YOU KNOW EVERYTHING, EXCEPT THAT THERE'S A PEN IN YOUR POCKET...?


NO! NO, I HAVEN'T! WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE IT IS...?


WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK EARLIER? GOT A PEN...?
yawn

CRITICS.

ANYWAY, I KNOW THAT BUILDING.

LOOKS MORE LIKE A REINDEER.

OKAY. IT'S A BUILDING WITH A BIG NEON DRAGON, LIKE THIS...

BUT...

...OH.

CAN I STILL WAKE UP FROM THIS...?

I DON'T THINK SO.

THEM.

THEM.

THEM.

THEM.

NO ESCAPE.

NO ESCAPE. NO ESCAPE.

スズズズ

ZZZZiiiiiiiiM

?

ゴゴゴゴ

kkreeeeakk

DON'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO HIM. OKAY, ATOM...?

...LOOK AFTER MEI WHILE I'M GONE, URAN.

ゴゴゴゴ

rrrrrumble

WHAT THE...?

?

flash

flash

shloop

ガ

ズレズレッ

sshhlupp

...!

ドカ BOOOM

!!

ゴゴゴ
rrrrrumble
KYAA!!
ガガガ
krakkkkk
AAAA!!
ドオン
WHOOOOM

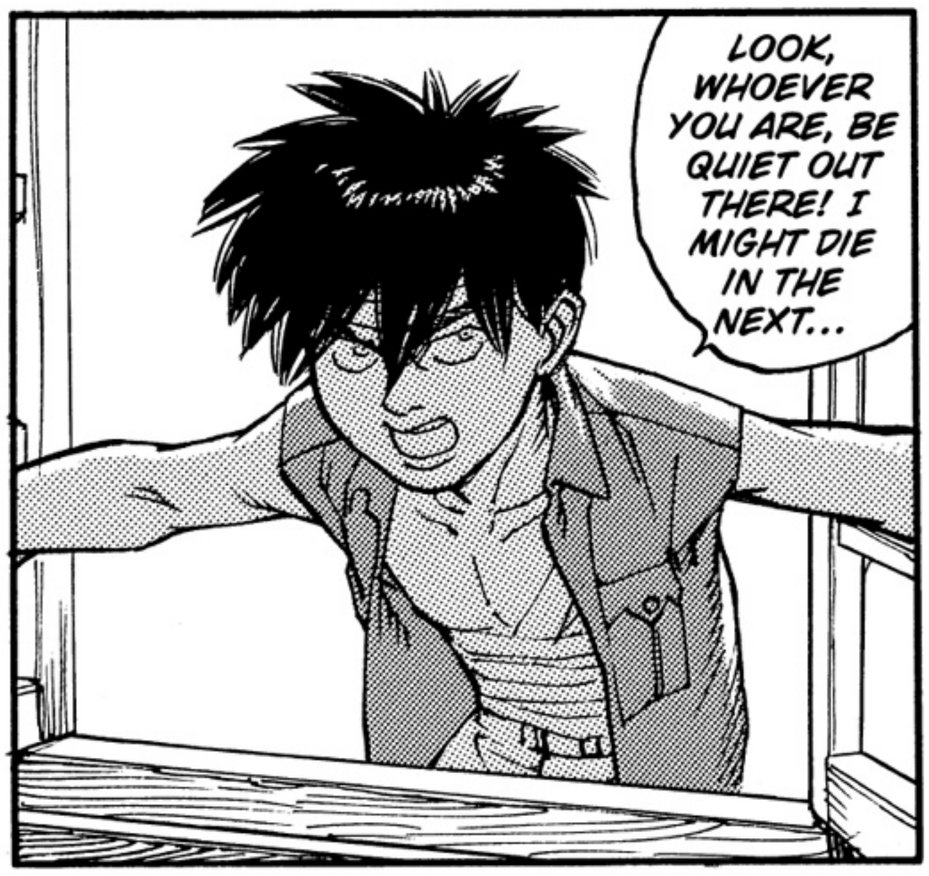
ALL COPTERS, MAINTAIN VISUAL SWEEP...!

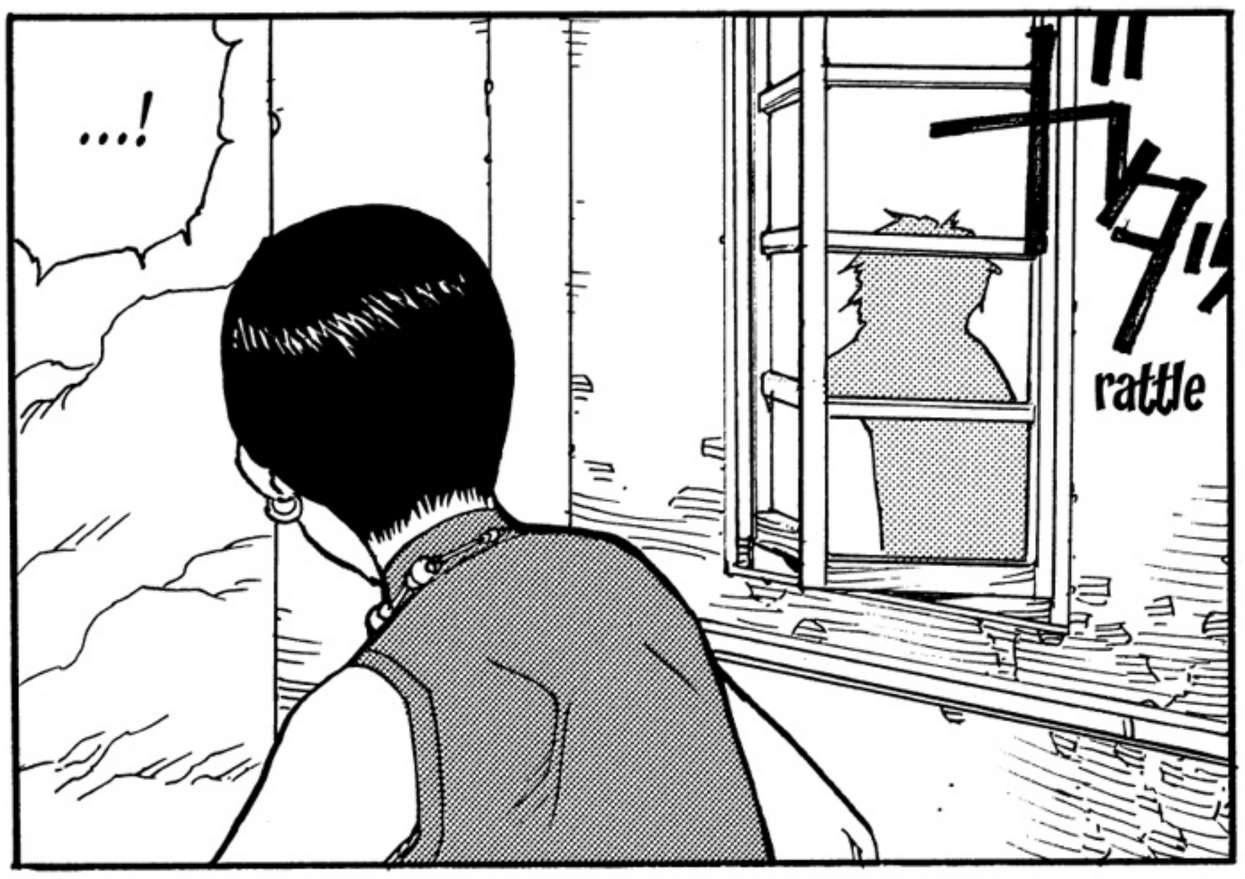
UNITS 31 AND 32, APPROACH SCENE AND REPORT...!

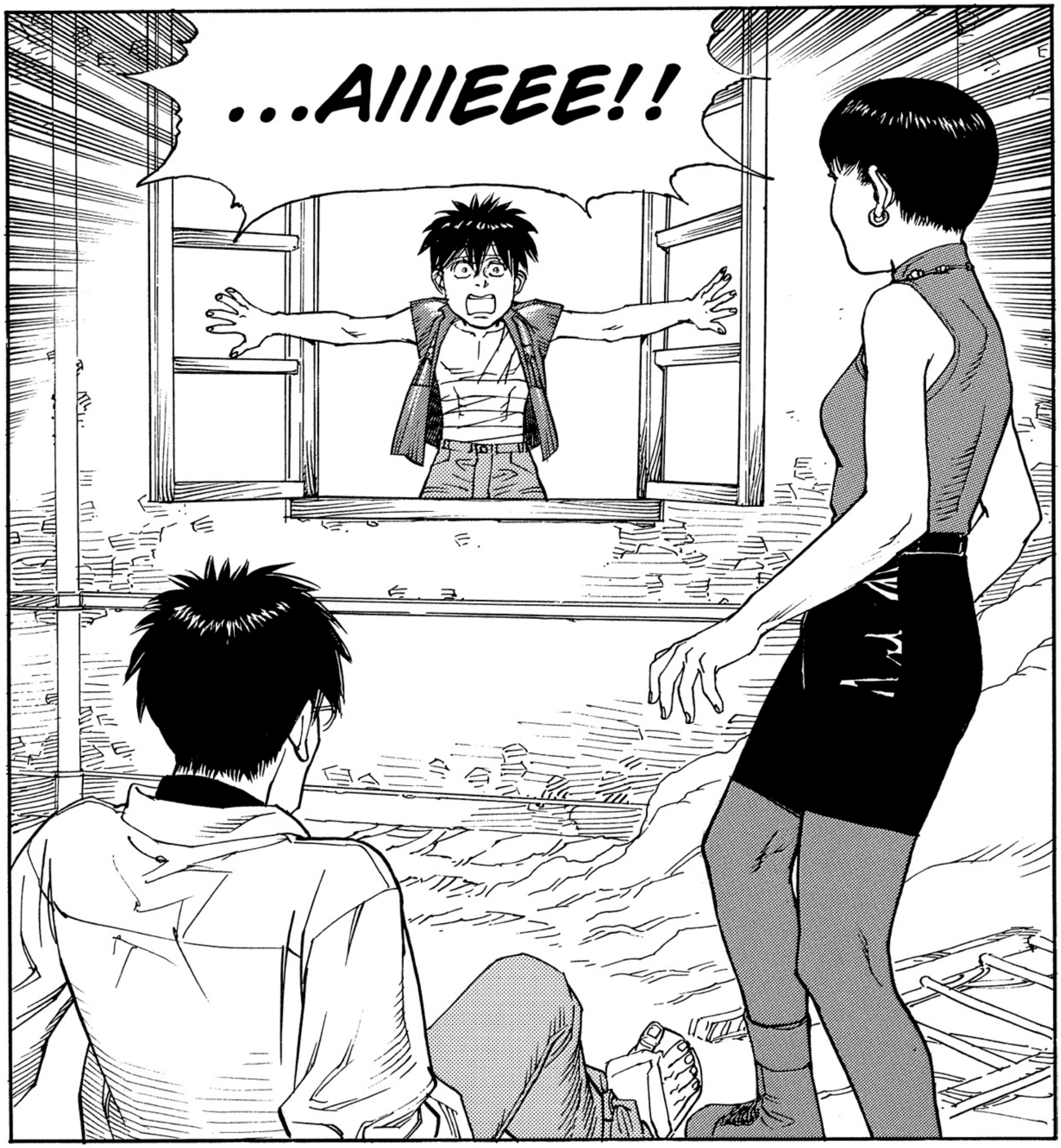
EXPLOSION! I REPEAT, EXPLOSION SIGHTED IN WARD 6...

HIM...?

ガラッ
rattle
kakk
YOU ALL RIGHT ...?
koff
koff
NOT KNOW? HOW CAN YOU ***NOT KNOW?*** YOU CREATED ALL THIS...
...I DON'T KNOW.
SOME KIND OF THING...
WHAT DID YOU JUST DRAW ...?!


LOOK, WHOEVER YOU ARE, BE QUIET OUT THERE! I MIGHT DIE IN THE NEXT...


...!
rattle


...AIIIEEE!!


chapter six

I'M OUTTA HERE!!

MEI!

slam

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY...?!

...C'MON, ATOM!

OOF

SATOKO ...!

LIN!!

smack

THAT'S ORIGINAL ART YOU GOT THERE...

HEY!!

OH, HI, MEI-CHAN ...

owww ...

カラン plink

!!

ピキ-

snack

THAT'S WHY.

...YOU'RE MY CHARACTERS !!

WHY?! WHY ARE YOU ALL AGAINST ME?! AFTER ALL...

ガッ
slam
YEAH, THAT'S IT...
...WAIT!
tmp
tmp
tmp
MAD AT THIS DREAM! WHY CAN'T I WAKE UP FROM IT...
...NOW I'M MAD!!
...I'M SORRY I HIT YOU.
HOW HARD DO I HAVE TO HIT MYSELF TO WAKE UP...?
...
ガラガラ
bang
slam
rattle

HUH ...?

ガシャン krashhh

DID THAT ASSHOLE DO SOME RENOVA-TIONS...?

LAST TIME I CHECKED, THERE WAS A BUILDING HERE...!

.....

AND BELIEVE ME, YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT!!

AND I HAVE SO MUCH TO DO!!

I HAVE SO MUCH TO TELL YOU...

PLEASE WAIT, LIN! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!!

...ARTWORK!

!!

GIVE BACK MY...

HEY, LIN...!

ドカッ

whammm

HOLY--

YOU FUCKING... CREATOR !!

THANKS, BUT I ALREADY KNOW HOW THIS ONE ENDS FOR ME!

DO AS I SAY...OR I'LL NEVER PUT YOU IN A MANGA AGAIN!!

SOMEHOW I EXPECTED GOD TO HAVE A BEARD...NOT TWO DAYS' GROWTH.

WE CAN ONLY DO WHAT WE CAN, CORRECT? BE AT PEACE WITH THAT...AND DON'T FOLLOW LIN'S MAD EXAMPLE.

...IS UNCHANGED. BE THANKFUL FOR THE LIFE HE GAVE YOU. MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY DAY.

WHAT'S TO BECOME OF ME NOW? I STRUCK HIM! MY DESTINY...

YEE-HAW!!

bam

...THERE YOU ARE.

ATOM, C'MON ...!

snack

WANT ME TO TAKE YOU FOR A WALK... STRAIGHT OFF THE PANEL BORDER?!

RFF! RFF! RFF! ...! RFF! RFF! RFF!

RRFF! RRFF! RRFF!

whine

LIN! SLOW DOWN!

Rrr...

...SUSPECTS SPOTTED ON FOOT IN WARD 13. IN PURSUIT.

hahh

hahh

...YOU'RE PATHETIC!

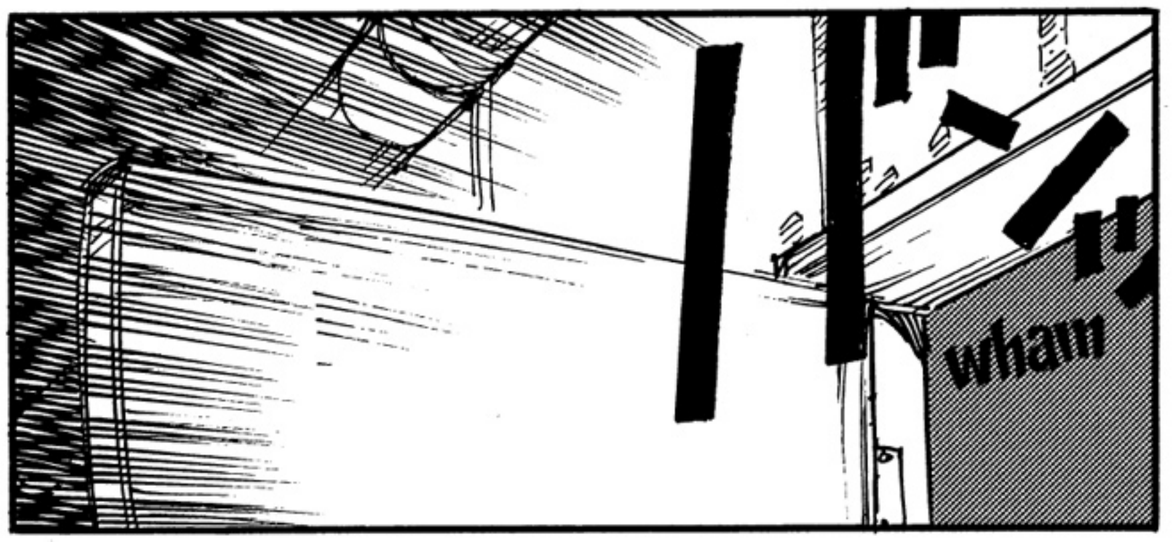
JEEZ ...

...CAN'T MAKE DEAD-LINES WITHOUT SMOKING.

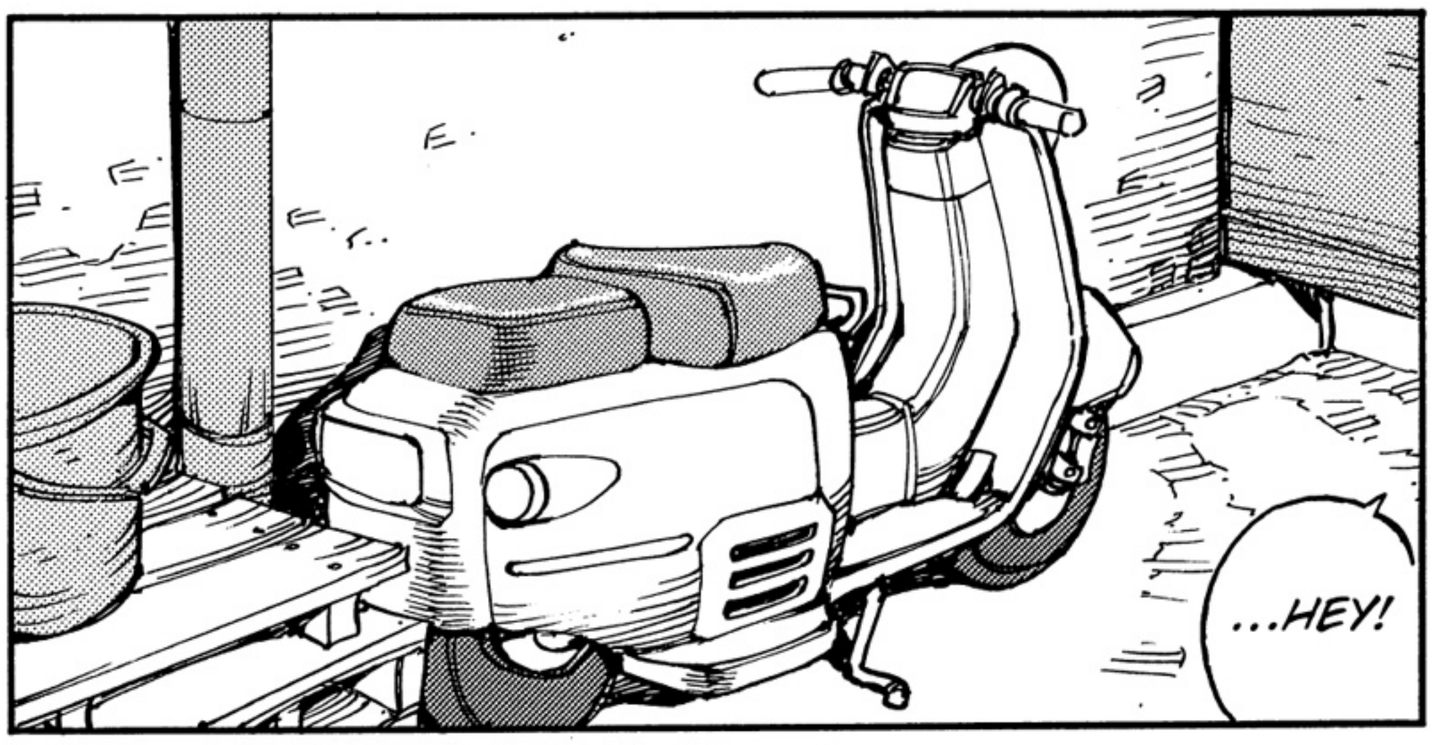
IT'S NOT FAIR ...

HE'S PERSISTENT, I'LL GIVE HIM THAT...


oww
bam!

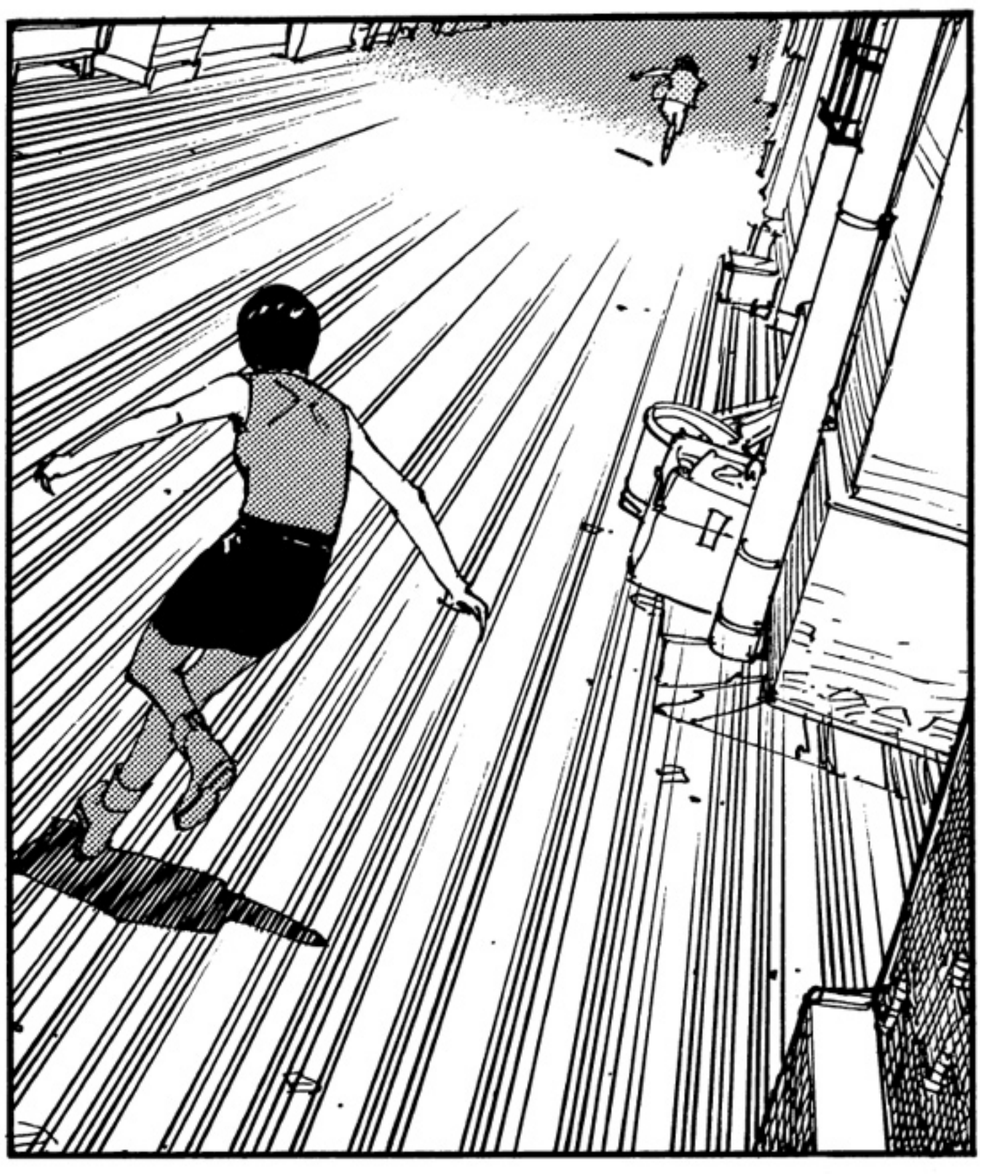

wham


バン
バン
バン
bam
bam
bam


...HEY!


LITTLE PUNK ...!


TELL ME, LIN! IS THIS REALLY JUST A MANGA STORY...?!




...YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW!!
I ALREADY TOLD YOU...

BACKGROUND DETAILS! YOU GOTTA LOVE 'EM...

HEY, SATOKO! HOP ON!

BUT...

SHIT! WHERE'D HE GET THAT RIDE...?

YOU MAY AS WELL STOP RUN-NING--

...HUH?

VMMM

KYAAAA...!

キッ

screeech

バナッ

snap

バン

snap

ビュー

krashh

slamm

...?

blah blah

blah blah blah

blah blah

blah blah

blah blah

blah blah blah

CROWDS... BUT I DON'T REMEMBER DRAWING THEM...

WHAT *ARE* THESE DISGUSTING THINGS...?!

blah

blah

blah

WASTE TIME...?

...RIGHT! I TOLD MY ASSISTANT NOT TO WASTE TIME ON THESE GUYS...!

...LIN.

HA, HA, HA...SAME WITH THE SKYLINE.

LIN, WHERE ARE YOU ...?!

BUT IT WOULD BE TOO MUCH FOR YOU IF YOU KNEW.

SORRY, SATOKO... I'M BEING PRETTY HARSH.

WHAT EXACTLY AM I SUPPOSED TO STOP YOU FROM DOING...?!

THAT BASTARD'S NOT GOING TO KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT...

AND IF YOU KNEW WHAT I HAD TO *DO*...YOU'D TRY TO STOP ME.

I JUST WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH.

PLEASE. NOTHING COULD SHOCK ME NOW.

THAT...THAT THIS IS A STORY THAT HE DREW...

WHAT DO YOU *THINK* IS THE TRUTH ...?

THAT HE DREW YOU. ME. MEI. EVEN THE MASQUE. HE DREAMED US ALL UP. WRITES OUR LIVES. *PLOTS THEM OUT.*

YOU REALLY WANT TO SEE...?

...CAN YOU PROVE THAT?

whoosh

...IT'S ALL IN THIS PICTURE ...

THE MASQUE AND ME KILLING EACH OTHER. A SIMULTANEOUS DEATH BLOW...

ATOM ?!

KYAA!!

?!

GOOD BOY...

thmp

...HE CAN ALWAYS SMELL A FAKE!

ka-BOOOM

WE WASTE EACH OTHER. THERE'S YOUR "DESTINY," MAN.

YOU WANNA KNOW HOW THIS ENDS...?!

chapter seven

...FOOL. AS IF I COULD BE RULED BY A PIECE OF PAPER.

AS LONG...

IT MUST PISS YOU OFF THAT I HOLD OUR LIVES RIGHT HERE IN MY HAND!

BRAVE TALK. BUT I'M NOT BUYING IT.

TRY AND TAKE IT!!

...AS YOU HOLD IT, BOY!!

NOW SOME-ONE'S DESPER-ATE!!

I CAN REALLY SEE THE MANGA VILLAIN COMING OUT!

HAND IT OVER!!

barooom

MANGA ...?

LOOK AT YOU, THE MASQUE. CONTROL'S YOUR THING... EVERYONE YOUR PUPPET. BUT IN THE END YOU'RE JUST...

...ONE OF HIS *CHARACTERS.*

YOU PEEKED INSIDE HIS HEAD, DIDN'T YOU?

WHAT? LOSING YOUR COOL?

SILENCE!

boom

?!

ドカ〃

kawhoom

...HE *BETTER* NOT HAVE DAMAGED MY DRAWING!

WHAT'S GOING ON...?!

LIN!

I KNOW *EXACTLY* HOW YOU FEEL!

ANGRY ?!

ドン

whamm

WHY?! WHY CAN YOU PASS THROUGH THE BORDERS OF THIS WORLD?!

ENOUGH, BUDDY!

SHIT! THAT LAST ONE REOPENED MY WOUND...

SO WHY NOT LET ME SEE WHAT'S UNDER THAT MASK...?

thamm

ガバッ

thoom

NEXT TIME, SUCKER !!

I CAN'T LET MY PLANS GET RUINED IN A FIGHT THAT'S POINTLESS ANYWAY...

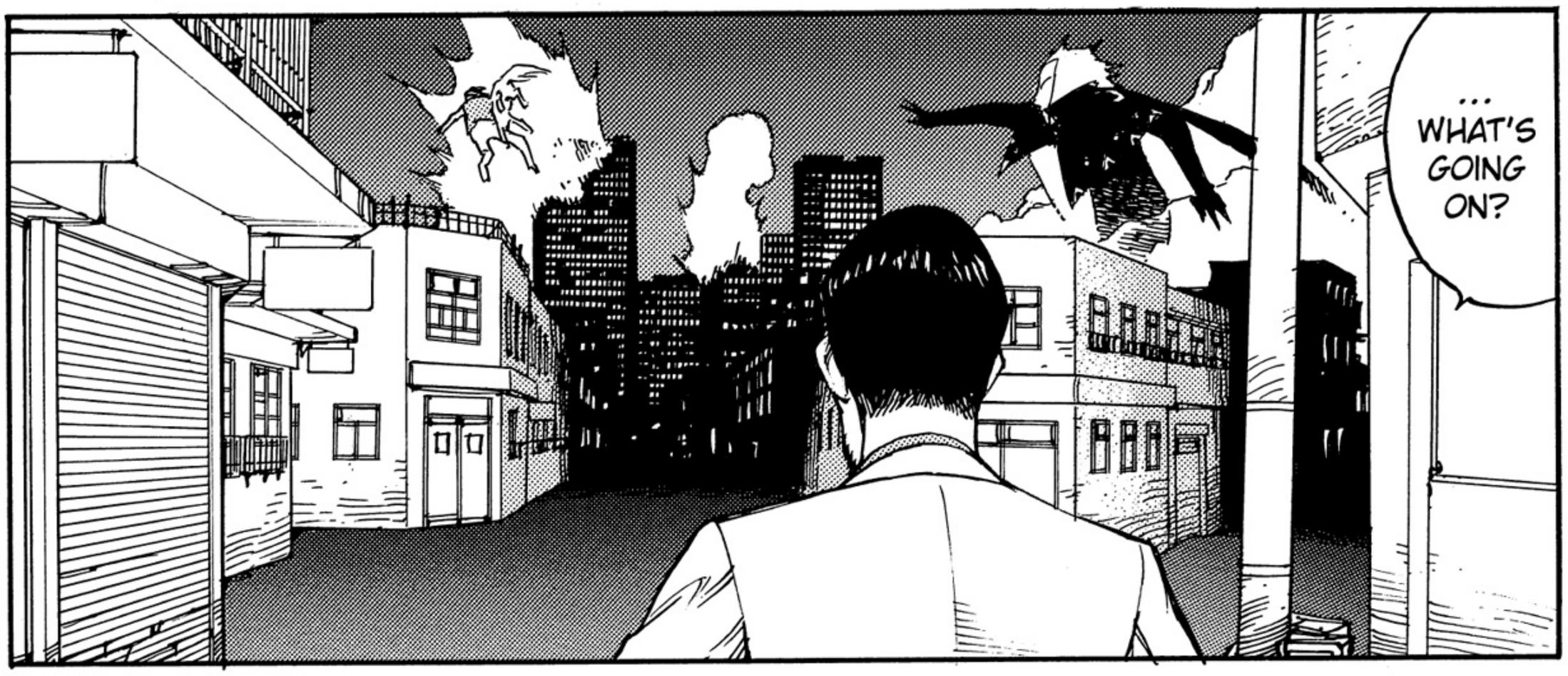
ドバッ

BAROOOM

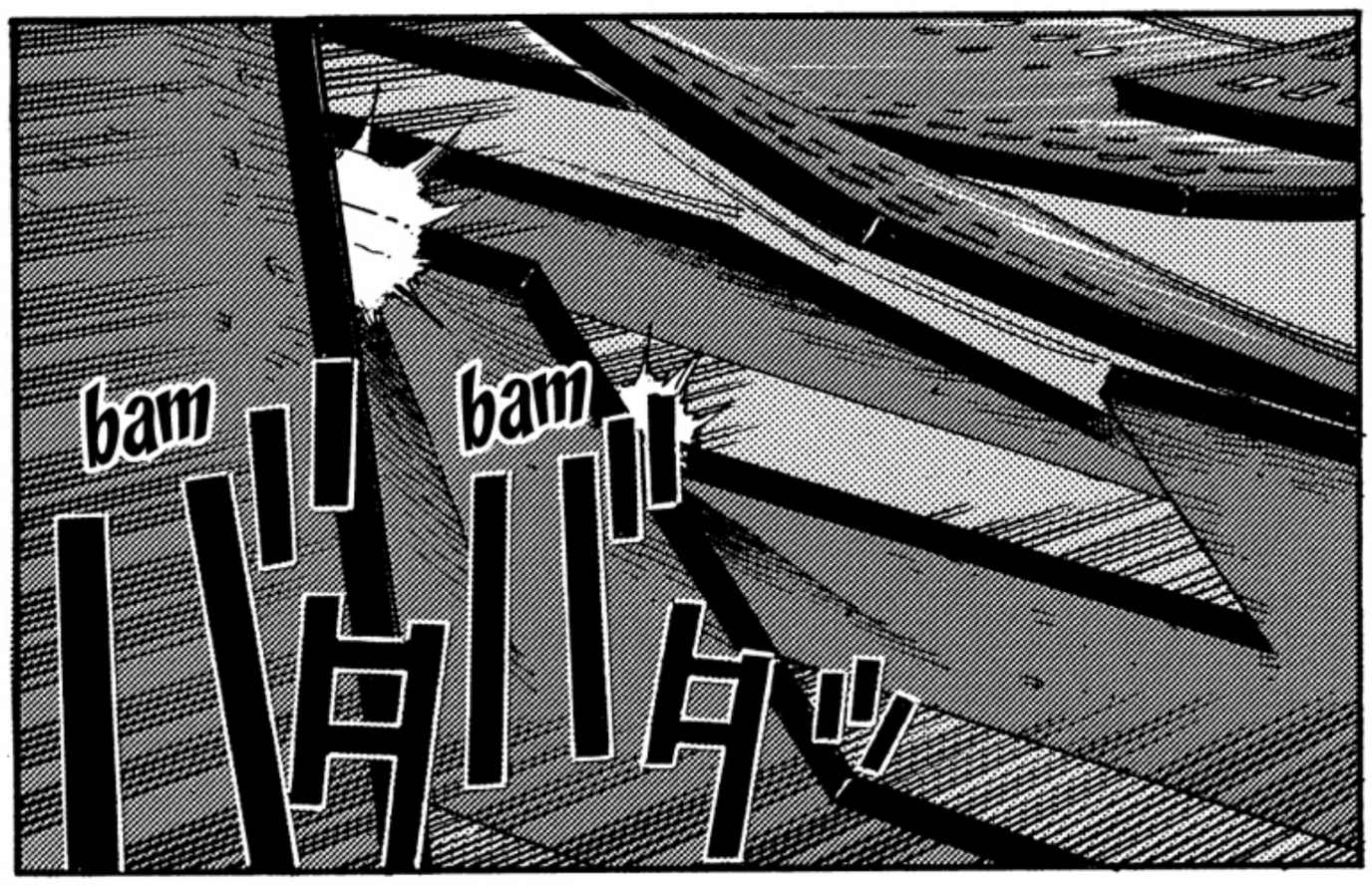
YOU ...!

WHAT ...?

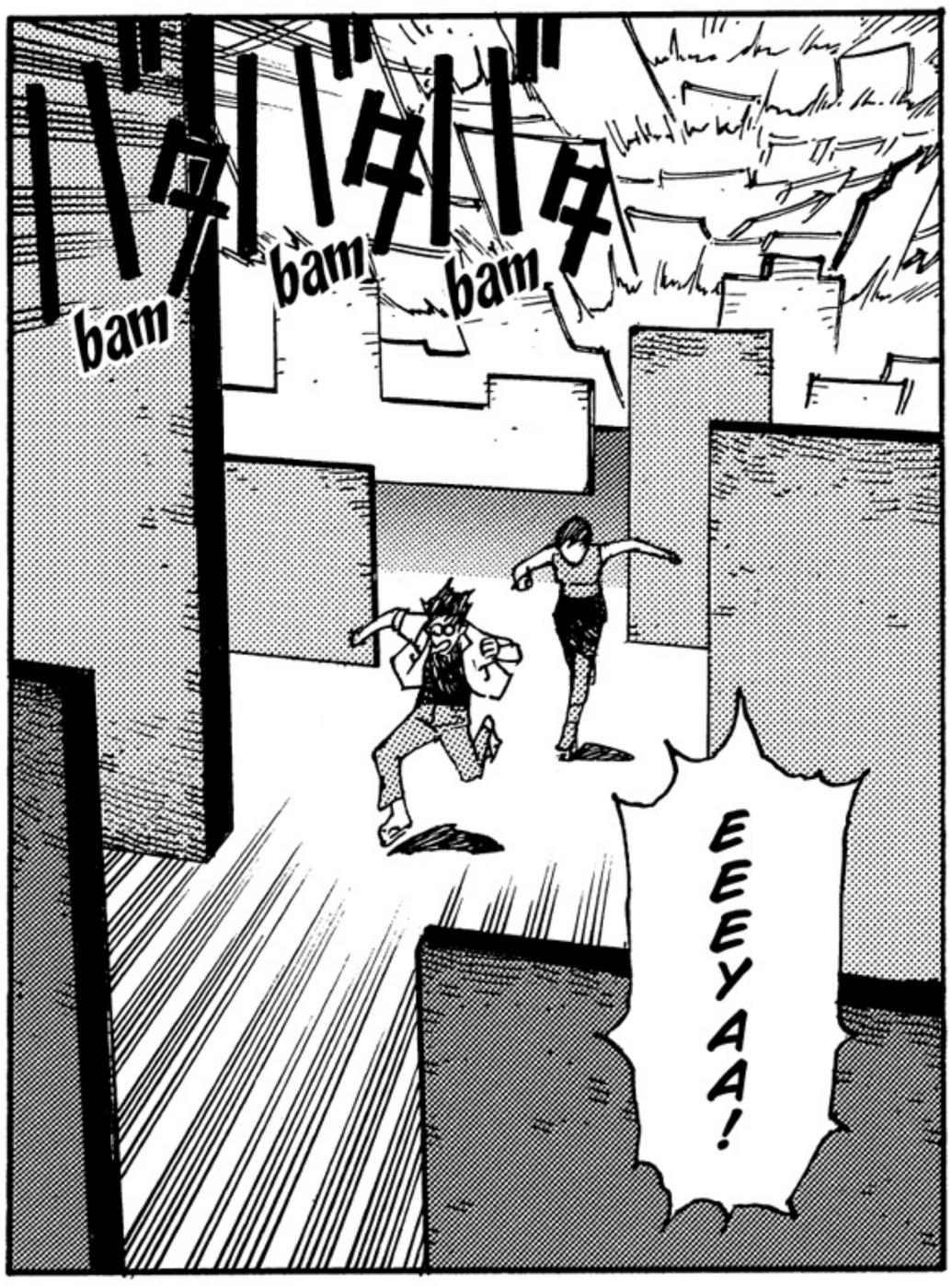
...!


...
WHAT'S GOING ON?


タバタバ
!!
タバタバ
bam bam bam


bam bam
バタバタッ


バーン
bammm


バタバタ
bam bam bam
EEEYAA!

WE'RE TRAPPED !!

... oww!

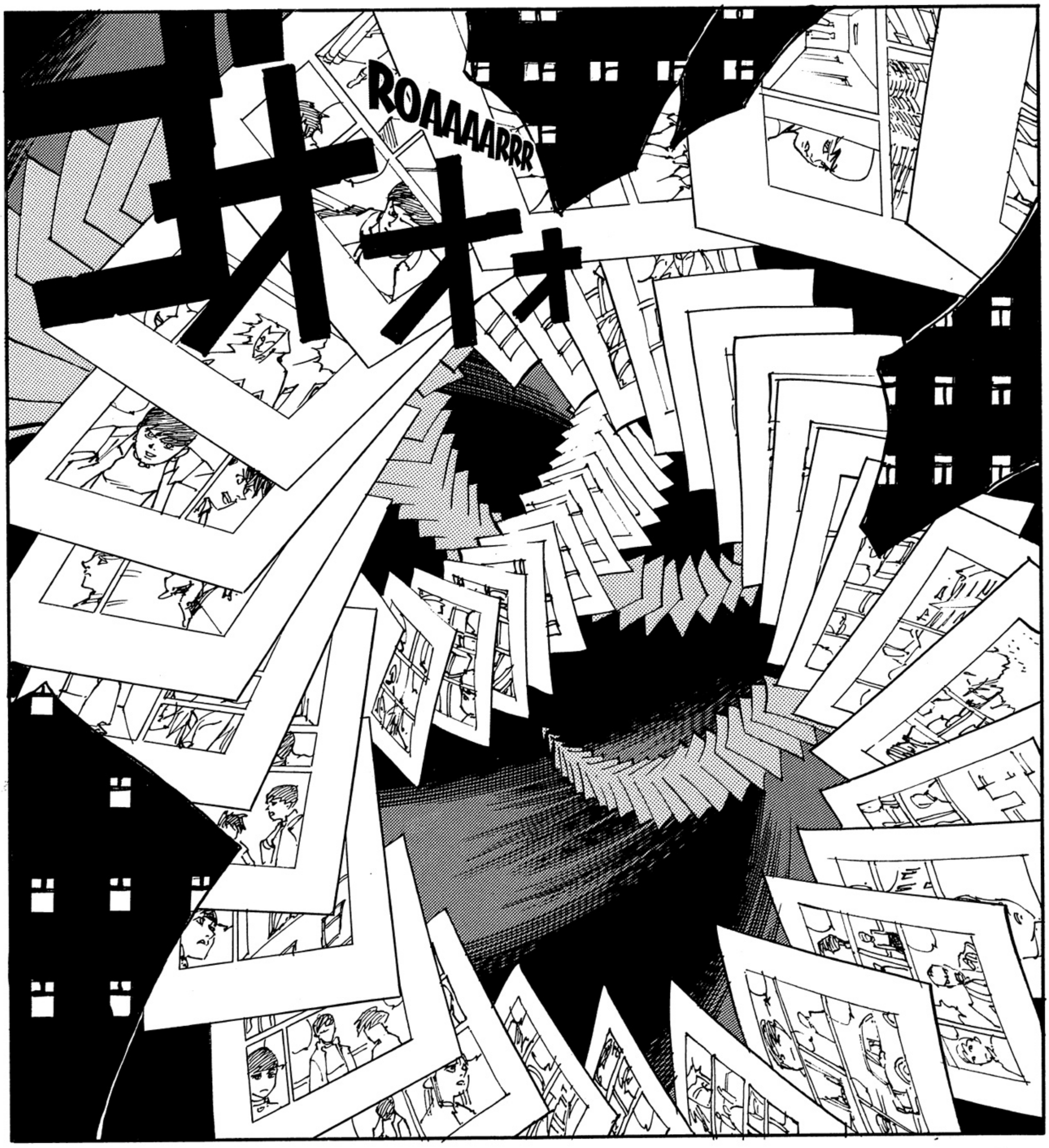
smack

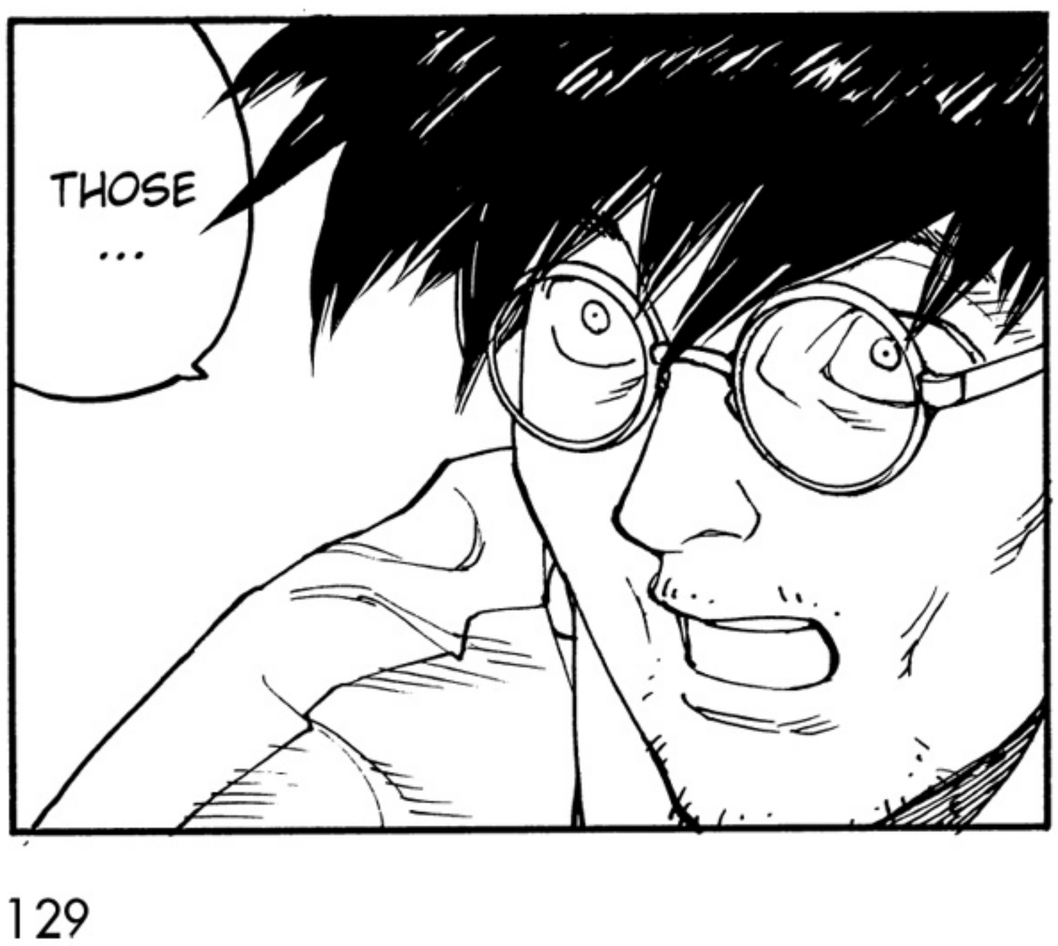
UM...

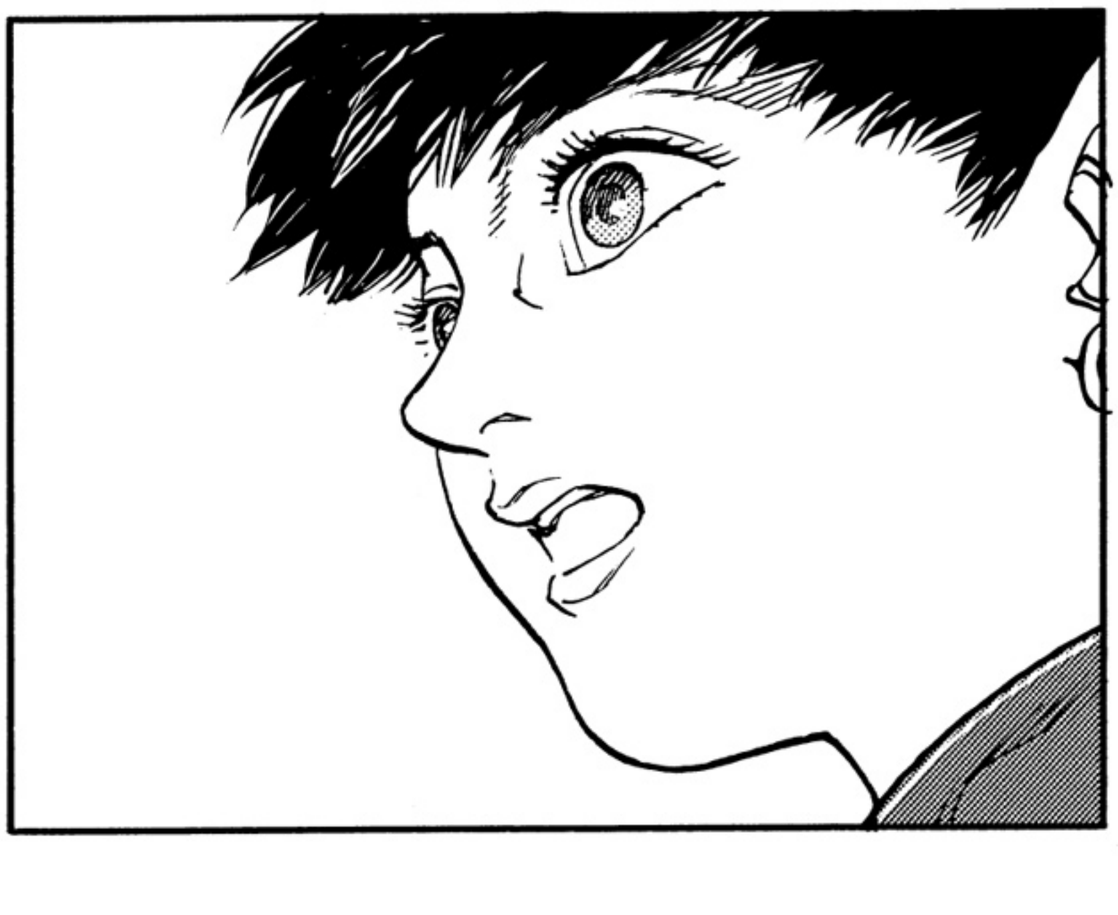
krashhh

!

!!


ROAAAARRR


THOSE
...



THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I DREW YOU.

LOOK!

I DREW THEM ALL.

...THESE ARE MY PAGES.

...

SO IT'S TRUE ...

BRINGS BACK MEMORIES ...

BUT YOU'RE THE MAIN CHARACTER ...

...MY LIFE IS SOMEONE ELSE'S STORY.

AAA!

THE PEOPLE WHO HURT AND BLED...?

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS ...?

MAIN CHARACTER ?

...THE PEOPLE WHO DIED...?

NO ...!

blam blam

ALL OUR SADNESS AND PAIN...IT WAS FOR WHAT?

STAY OUT OF PEOPLE'S MINDS!!

NO, SATOKO

WELL... I'M A WRITER.

IT WAS FOR *YOU*. WE'RE JUST YOUR TOYS TO PLAY WITH.

IT WASN'T FOR ME. IT WASN'T FOR THEM.

...I HAVE TO KEEP IT INTERESTING.

UM... WELL...

DOES THE STORY HAVE TO BE SO SAD...?

IT WOULD BE ***BORING*** *IF WE WERE ALL JUST HAPPY...AND SO YOU TORTURE US...?*

IS ***THAT*** *WHY WE DIE?!*

YOU STRUG-GLED...

...TO CREATE SOMETHING ***ENTER-TAINING*** *!!*

I STRUGGLED TO CREATE *YOUR* LIFE...

I'VE STRUG-GLED MY WHOLE LIFE...

...AND IT WASN'T EVEN *MY* LIFE.

...BUT THAT HURTS WORSE THAN ANYTHING.

I'VE BLED... I'VE BEEN IN PAIN...

I NEVER THOUGHT ...I MEAN, HOW COULD I...?

I'M SORRY ...

DON'T TOUCH ME!! ALL OF THIS IS YOUR FAULT!!

smack

DON'T MOVE!!

...YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR MURDER AND FOR BOMBING THE NAME-LESS FAITH BUILDING.

HEH, HEH...

THE *MASQUE!!* HE'S UNDER HIS CONTROL ...

CHIEF...?

W... WHAT?!

WHO *ARE* YOU, ANYWAY, MISTER ...?!

AND WOULD YOU MIND EXPLAINING WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE... THESE *PROPS...?*

BUT I *DIDN'T* WRITE THIS...!

...WHAT A PLOT TWIST, EH? YOU ARE A *GOOD* WRITER AFTER ALL.

YOU'RE AT THE EDGE OF SOME LAZY BASTARD'S COMIC BOOK!!

...HE DOESN'T KNOW! OF COURSE HE DOESN'T KNOW...

HAHA HAHA HA!!

I'M THE MAIN CHARACTER !!

GO AHEAD AND SHOOT ME!!

HE MADE US, CHIEF! SCRIBBLED US DOWN...!

NO, SATOKO!!

STOP...

SET ME FREE...!

!

whoom

LET GO!!

COME WITH ME, SATOKO !!

...ESCAPE INTO THE HOLES!!

whoosh

SHOOT !!

...DAMN YOU!

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

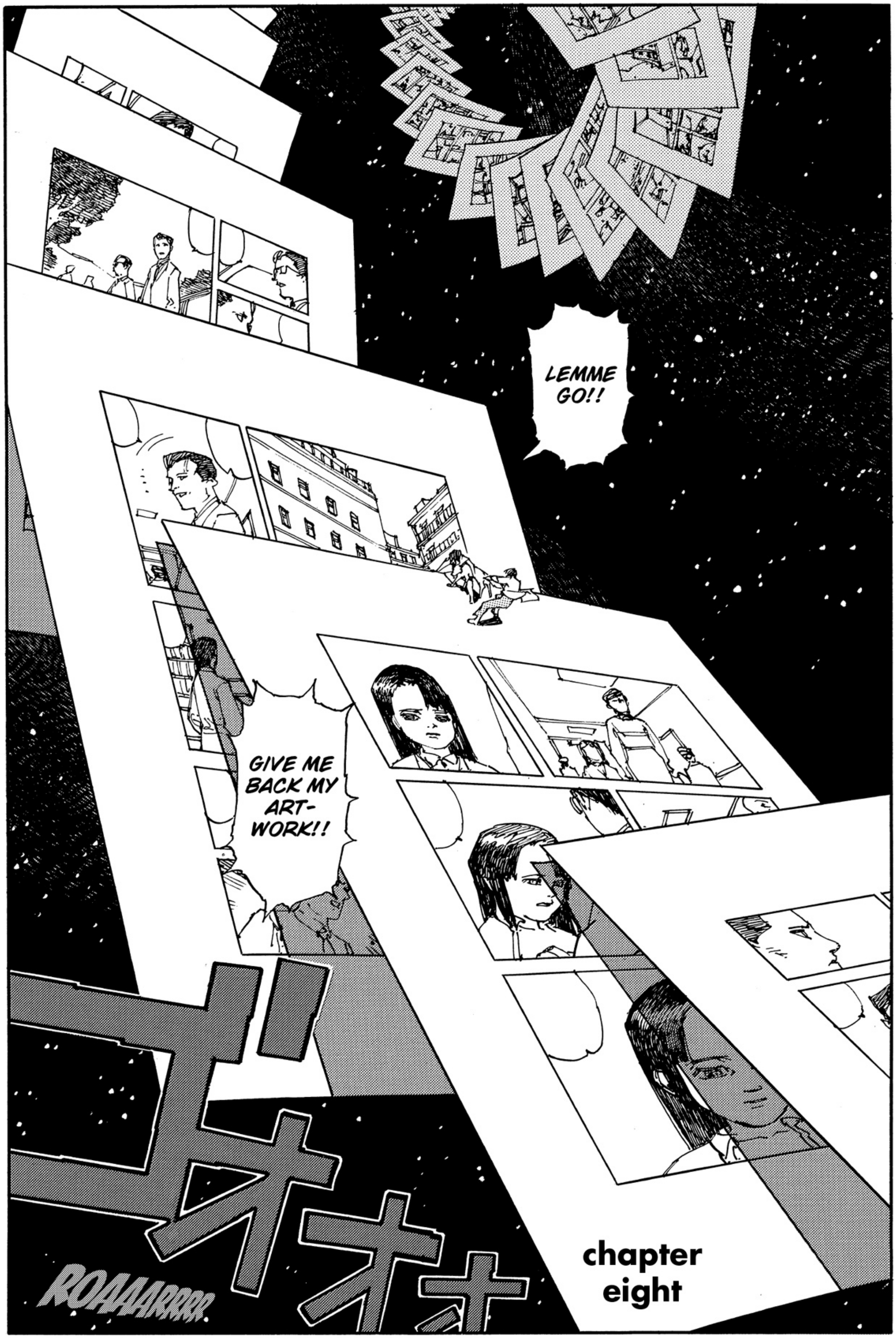
NO...!

OOF!!

thudd

whump

138


LEMME GO!!
GIVE ME BACK MY ART-WORK!!
ROAAARRRR
chapter eight

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO PROTECT SATOKO ...

...AFTER YOU KILL ME...?

MY FAULT?! FUCK YOU!

I CREATED YOU TO PROTECT SATOKO!!

I HOPE YOU REALIZE THIS IS YOUR FAULT! YOU MESSED THINGS UP WHEN YOU STOLE THAT PAGE! THAT'S WHY SHE GOT SHOT!!

GO TO HELL!!

I WANT TO LIVE... GOT IT?!

EEEYAH!!

...
CAN I PLEASE WAKE UP NOW?!

YAAAAA!!

...BUT WHERE AM I GOING--

I-I'M THROUGH THE PAGES ...

krakkkk

ナニオ!!

...!!!

RESONANCE
NAKED CHILD
YG

yowl!

slammmm

krasshh

rattle

bang

bam

bam

bam

...owww-www...

DEADLINE PRESSURE ...?

HEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? LOOK AT YOUR PAGES...!

ガチャッ krnch

OW ...

I KNEW IT WAS A DREAM! I KNEW IT!!

...I'M SO FINE...!

I'M FINE...

MORE LIKE A NIGHT-MARE... DIDN'T THINK I WAS COMING BACK.

A DREAM, YOU SAID...?

WHAT'D YOU DO, FALL OUT OF YOUR CHAIR...?

I CUT MY FOOT ON...THE CUP...

WHAT?

...YEAH. NAGAI-SAN, YOU NEED TO DRAW THIS LAST PAGE.

WELL, DREAMING OR NOT, THE REALITY IS THAT WE'VE GOT TO GET THIS DONE...

...I DID DO THE LAST PAGE...!

MAYBE I LOST IT. JUST GOTTA EXPLAIN TO THE EDITOR ...

EH...

THAT PAGE ISN'T SO SIMPLE...

OF *COURSE* I LOOKED...

THEN YOU HAVE TO REDRAW IT! IT'S JUST THAT SIMPLE!

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU FINISH SO MANY PAGES YOU CAN'T KEEP TRACK! DID YOU LOOK...?

LOST IT?!

...BUT I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO DO IT.

LOOK, JUST DO IT, OKAY...? IF IT'S ONE PAGE, WE CAN STILL MAKE DEADLINE.

I KNOW...

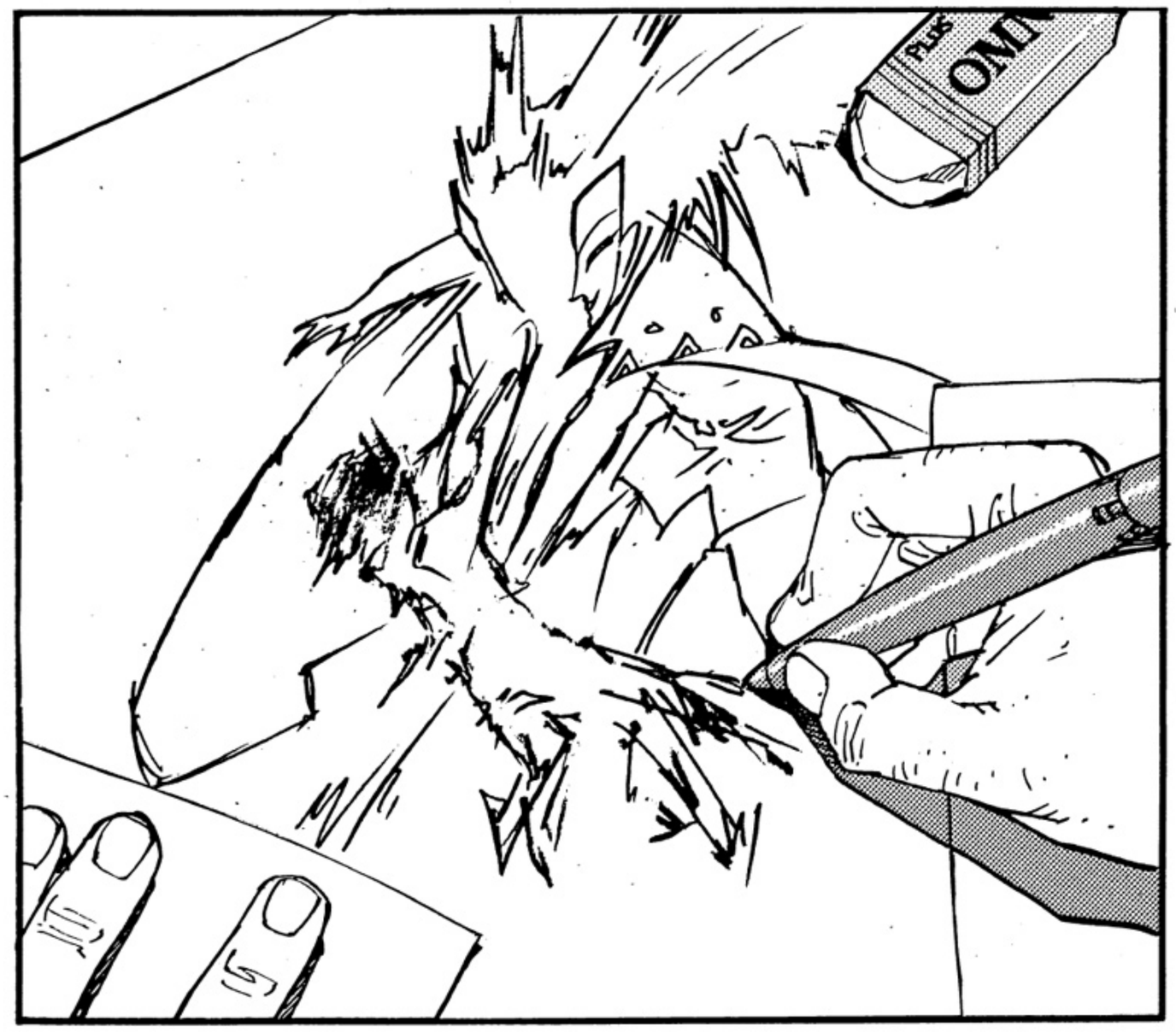
I'M DOING MY BEST, OKAY...?

slam

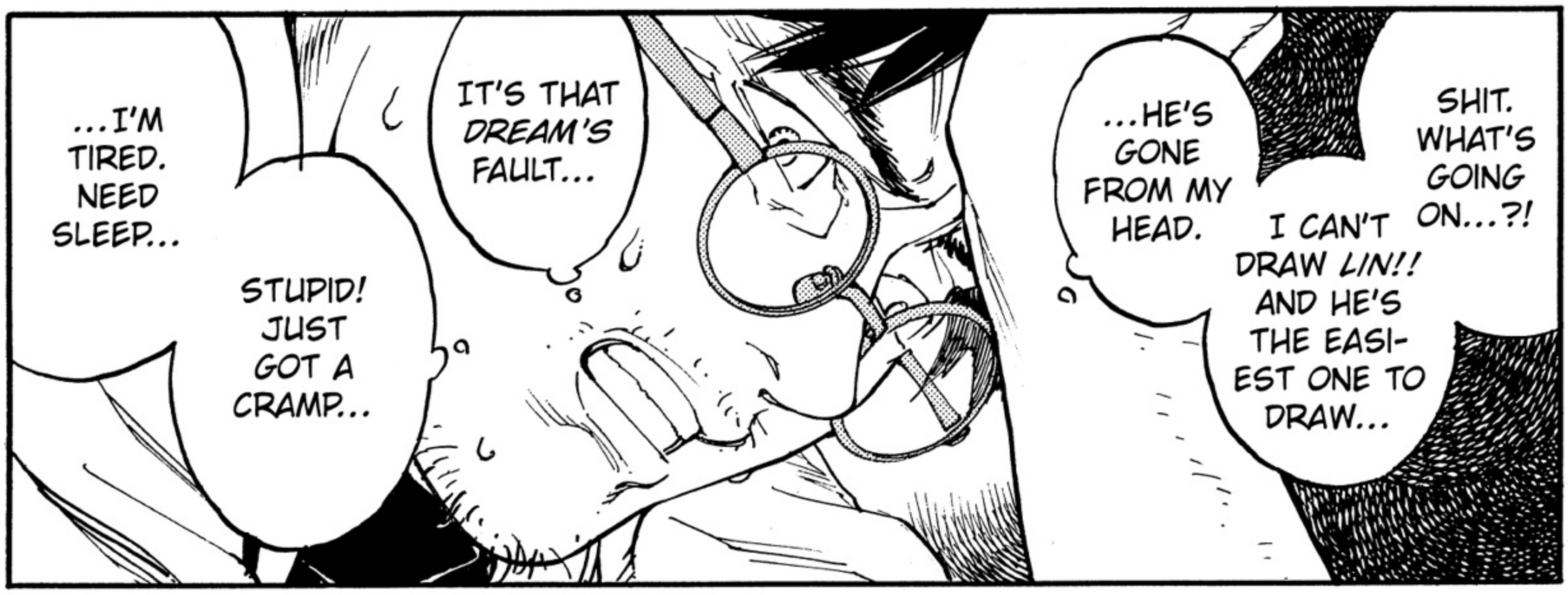
DRAW IT!

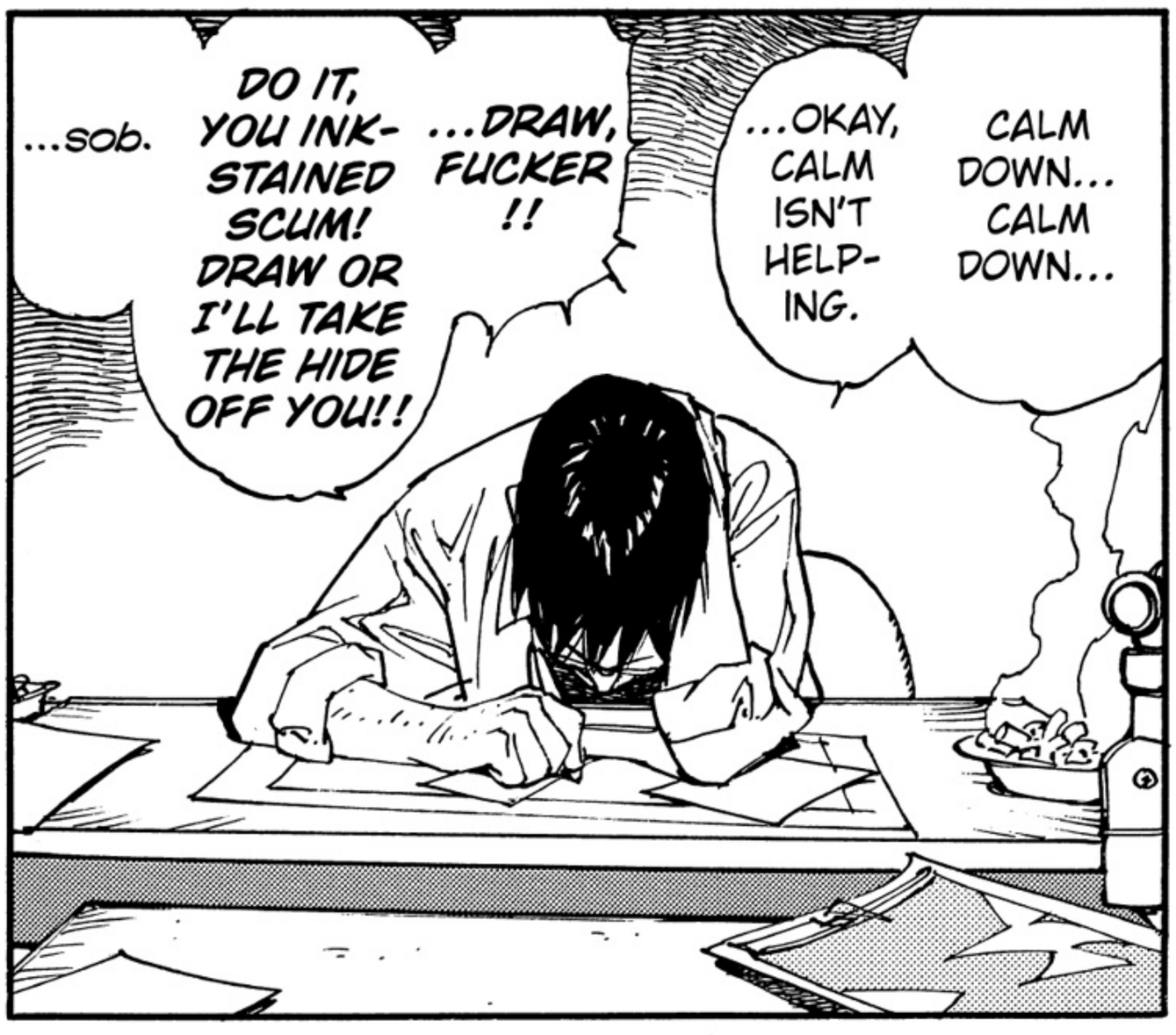
DON'T GIVE ME STUPID EXCUSES!

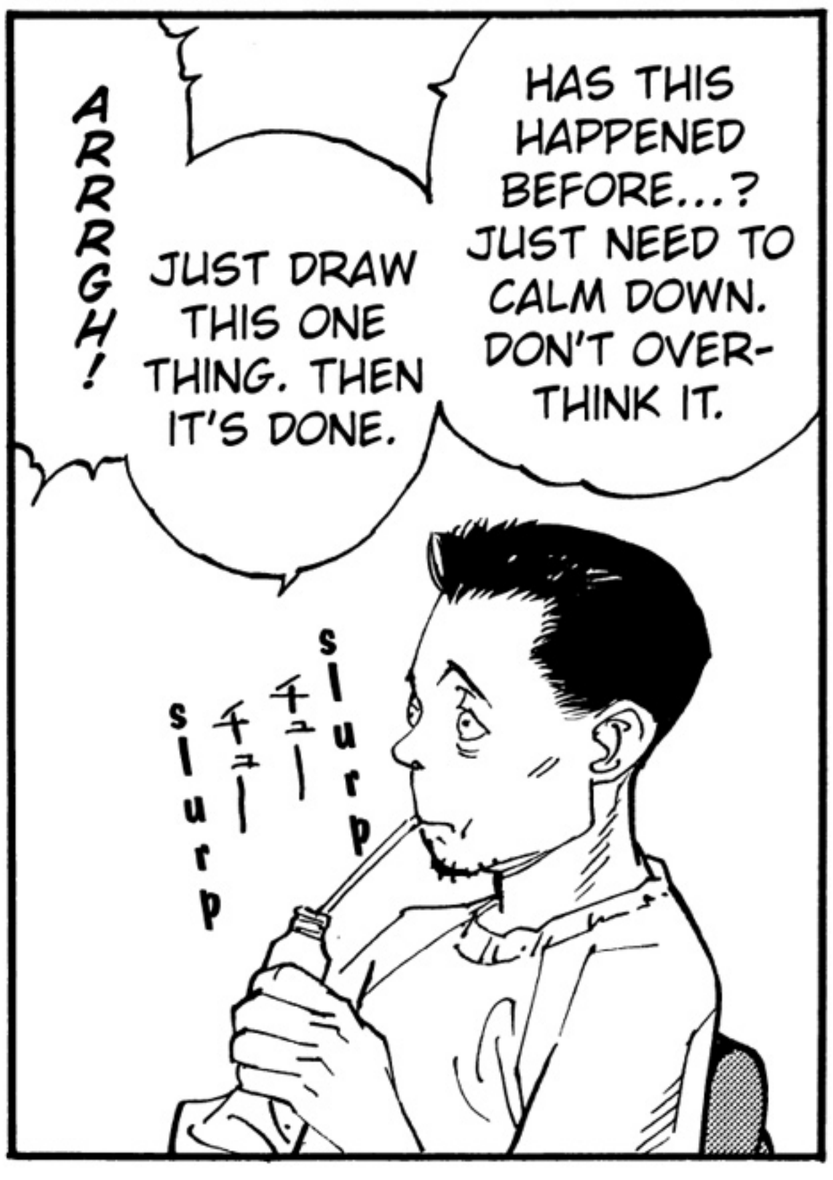
WE'VE ALREADY ASKED THE PRINTERS TO WAIT ONCE.


PLUS ONE



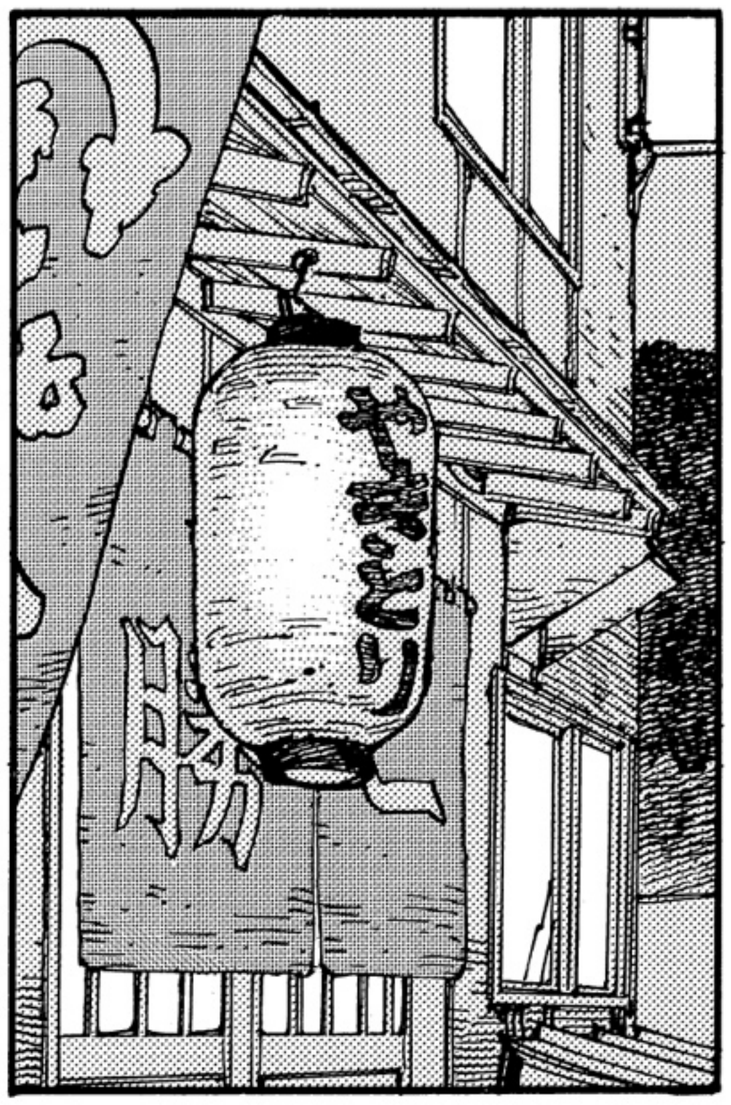

...I'M TIRED. NEED SLEEP...
IT'S THAT DREAM'S FAULT...
STUPID! JUST GOT A CRAMP...
...HE'S GONE FROM MY HEAD.
I CAN'T DRAW LIN!! AND HE'S THE EASI-EST ONE TO DRAW...
SHIT. WHAT'S GOING ON...?!


...sob.
DO IT, YOU INK-STAINED SCUM! DRAW OR I'LL TAKE THE HIDE OFF YOU!!
...DRAW, FUCKER!!
...OKAY, CALM ISN'T HELP-ING.
CALM DOWN... CALM DOWN...


ARRRGH!
JUST DRAW THIS ONE THING. THEN IT'S DONE.
HAS THIS HAPPENED BEFORE...? JUST NEED TO CALM DOWN. DON'T OVER-THINK IT.
siurp
チュー
siurp

CAN YOU *DO* THAT...?!

SO...YOU DECIDED TO JUST GO ON VACATION?



...AREN'T *YOU* JUST FULL OF YOURSELF.

IF THEY WANT MY STORY FINISHED, MAYBE THEY'LL CUT ME A LITTLE SLACK...!

THEY KEEP FILLER STORIES TO RUN FOR CASES LIKE THIS.

WHY NOT? CREATORS GET "SICK" ALL THE EDITORS TIME. KNOW THE SCORE.

...DRINK UP, THEN!

I *DO* PUT IT THAT WAY.

WELL, WHEN *YOU* PUT IT *THAT* WAY...

I THINK I'VE EARNED A FEW PERKS.

I'VE BEEN A PRO FOR TEN YEARS NOW.

...AWESOME!

Klakk

I MEAN, YOU COULDN'T DRAW TODAY. WHAT IF YOU STILL CAN'T DRAW TOMORROW ...?

HUH? WELL?

IF YOU SAY SO.

YOU'RE TAKING THIS A LITTLE TOO WELL, YOU KNOW...?

... DRAWING MANGA.

Smash

YEAH!!

IT'S A TOUGH LIFE...

AS LONG AS YOU'RE HAVING FUN, I GUESS ...

I DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT TOMORROW ...

...AWW, JEEZ. THAT'S NOT A LOGO... THAT'S SOME DAMN SCREEN-TONE STUCK TO IT.

...I'M GOING OUT TODAY. HEY, WHAT BRAND SHIRT IS THIS ...?

...OUCH. ANYWAY ...

NO GOOD NEW ALBUMS OUT...

I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE MOVIES IN FOREVER ...

OKAY... MIGHT AS WELL TRY WORKING.

GAMEOVER

ZZZTP

ズバ ドォン pewww ボボン pewww pewww

...BUT NOTHING COMES OUT. NOT EVEN HANDS AND FEET.

I KNOW, I KNOW ...

BUT IT'S JUST *ONE PAGE...!*

WHAT?! YOU'RE REWRITING THE END...?!

OKAYYY...BUT YOU HAD SATOKO ABOUT TO BE KILLED BY THE MASQUE. LIN WAS GOING TO SWOOP IN FOR THE SAVE...

...WHAT HAPPENS *NOW...?*

...AND I GIVE UP ON TRYING TO GET HIM BACK.

IT'S LIKE LIN HAS BEEN ERASED FROM MY HEAD AS A CHARACTER. HE'S JUST GONE.

BUT ISN'T THAT A COP-OUT?! YOU SAID HE'D GOTTEN TOO POWERFUL FOR ANYONE BUT LIN...!

The chief and the special forces arrive and rescue her, and take down the Masque. The end!

WELL...

HMM. WHAT ABOUT THE CHIEF? ISN'T HE STILL BRAIN-WASHED ...?

A HEROIC LAST STAND, HUH...?

IN A ONE-ON-ONE FIGHT, YEAH! BUT I FIGURE IF THE TROOPS SACRIFICE THEMSELVES AGAINST HIM...

WELL, OKAY. BEFORE ANYONE NOTICES, HE'LL TURN TOWARDS SATOKO ...

...PULL OUT HIS GUN, AND ...

HE IS? I FORGOT ABOUT THAT...

HUH?

NO! I CAN'T DO THAT TO HER ...!!

blam

HEY, *HERE'S* SOME EDITORIAL INPUT, SHITBRAIN! HOW ABOUT YOU STICK TO THE STORY LINE AS WRITTEN, GO BACK TO THE STUDIO...

...AND DRAW ONE GODDAMN PAGE!!

I *KNOW* I DREW THAT PAGE. WHY CAN'T I FIND IT...?

...BUT I HAVE TO FINISH THIS ONE FIRST!!

...THROWING ME OFF MY GAME.

ALWAYS LOVE THOSE CONFERENCES. IT'S THAT STUPID DREAM'S FAULT...

...YEAH! A CREATOR IN HIS OWN MANGA, *CREATING* A MANGA. LIKE A SERIES OF NESTING DOLLS. NOW THAT'S SOME SERIOUS METAFICTION.

WAIT! MAYBE I COULD GET A STORY OUT OF THIS...

I'LL BET I COULD GET A WHOLE NEW *SERIES* OUT OF THIS...

WAS I REALLY IN *MY OWN MANGA* ...?

STUPID! YOU'RE OVER 30 NOW, YOU KNOW! ACT LIKE IT!

DOES LIN REALLY HAVE IT...?

blam

WELL, WHAT TO DO WITH THIS...

ガタン smack

SORRY, BABE... TRAUMA IS WHAT READERS LIKE.

IT WOULD BE BORING IF WE WERE ALL JUST HAPPY...AND SO YOU TORTURE US...?

IS THAT WHY WE DIE?!

SATOKO *WOULD* BE PISSED AT ME RIGHT NOW...

?

AND THEN THINGS JUST GOT WORSE IN VOLUME THREE, DIDN'T THEY...?

I'VE PUT YOU THROUGH A LOT OF ROUGH STUFF, I KNOW.

KILLING THAT PERVERT IN VOLUME ONE. EVERYONE AGAINST YOU IN VOLUME TWO...

Electric Blues

WHAT'S THIS...?!

...YOUR MOTHER GAVE IT TO YOU. I DON'T WANT TO STAIN IT...

...FUCK!!

I'M GOING CRAZY! I'M LOSING MY MIND...

bam bam bam bam

bammmmm

...I CAN'T DO THIS!!

thup

blam

Aaa !!

I... I...

smashhh


chapter nine

I BROKE THROUGH ...

WHAT ...?

...SATOKO !!

ドン BLAM

?!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

AAAA!!

SHIT!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

ガチャ
ka-chack

ドン
BLAM BLAM
...!

WHAT CAN I DO...?!

SATOKO !!

WHAT IN THE WORLD ...?!

...QUICK! WHILE HE'S RELOADING ...

...JUST COME ON!

DON'T ASK...

!

チャッ
chakk

whoosh
ヨッ


...?!






BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM



BLAM!

HUH?

WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY ...?

SATOKO! YOU'RE SAFE NOW! ARE YOU HURT ...?!

thmp

BLAM BLAM

...SHIT!!

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

UM... YEAH!

...BLOCK THE HOLE! HURRY !!

W- WHAT DO WE DO... ?!

WAIT--

HOLD IT, YOU ...!

AAAA!!

whmp

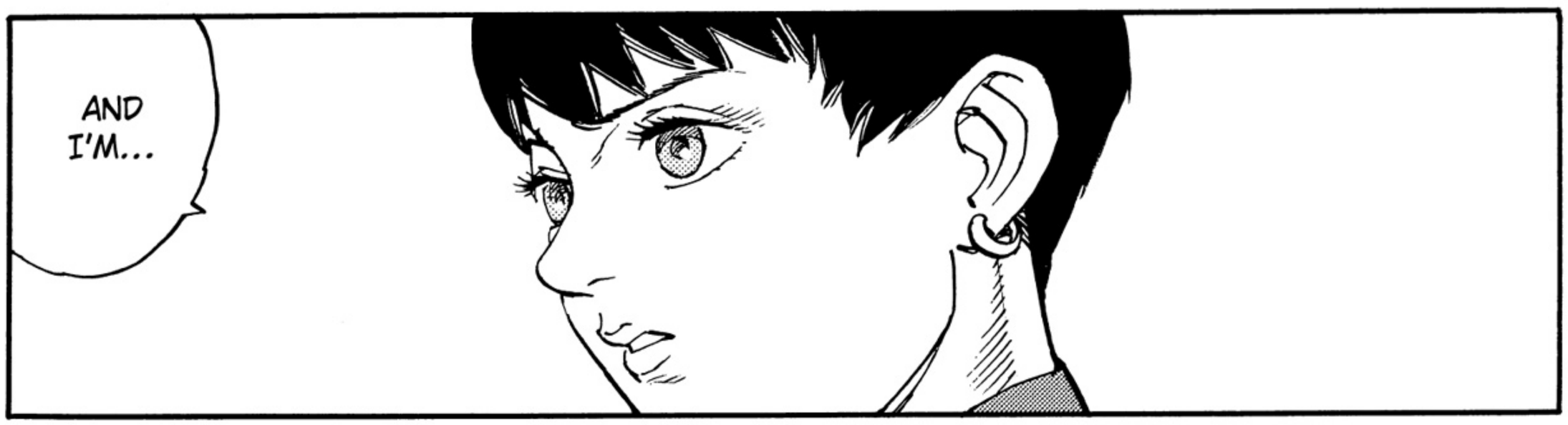
thak

hahh UNDER THE FRIDGE... THAT SHOULD DO IT...

flap

AAAAAA

hahh
haa
hahh
haa
haa
hahh
IS THIS REALLY HAPPENING... OR ARE YOU DOING THIS WITH TELEPATHY ...?
WHERE AM I...?
hahh
haa
...AND I'M IN YOUR DEBT.
WELL, I KNOW YOU SAVED MY LIFE...
EH?!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHO I AM...?


AND I'M...


...WHO ARE YOU ...?
klangg
!!
blam

OR AM I DREAMING NOW...?!

IT *WASN'T* A DREAM, WAS IT ...?

...WHY AREN'T I SHOT...?!

OH... NOW I REMEMBER.

IT WASN'T A DREAM! NEITHER IS THIS! YOU'RE *REAL*, SATOKO!!

...WE'RE ALL JUST FIGMENTS OF YOUR IMAGINATION.

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD THANK GOD FOR HIS MERCY...

blam

...AH.

I TOLD YOU I WAS SHOT.

The chief's been brain-washed!!

THIS JUST HAPPENED ...

.... THAT'S SO WEIRD ...

gonna be okay...

HARD TO KEEP A STORY GOING WITHOUT YOUR MAIN CHARACTER, EH...?

MERCY *AND* WISDOM.

IT WAS JUST A SKETCH! I NEVER FINISHED THE DRAWING...

YOU...YOU THINK I WOULD HAVE K-KILLED YOU...?

THIS IS WHERE YOU PLOT OUT OUR LIVES.

SO THIS IS WHERE YOU MAKE US.

カランッ

klak

WE LIVED OUR WHOLE LIVES NEVER KNOWING...

...IT WAS BETTER THAT WAY!

WHAT CAUSED THE GAP BETWEEN OUR WORLDS...?

WHY DID THIS HAPPEN ...?

...AND LIN.

I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY ABOUT YOU...

WELL, YOU DIDN'T GIVE HIM MUCH CHOICE, DID YOU...?

NO IDEA. HE KICKED ME INTO THE VOID.

WHERE *IS* HE...?

HE HAD TO STEAL YOUR PAGE. IT WOULD HAVE MEANT HIS LIFE OTHERWISE.

*YOU ALL GET A **HAPPY** ENDING!!*

LIN CAN TAKE DOWN THE MASQUE WITHOUT DYING!!

WHAT HAPPENS WITH THE MASQUE ...?

I WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO HIM IF I SEE HIM AGAIN. SET THINGS RIGHT...

HAVE WE NO WILL OF OUR OWN? YOU ARE GOD, AND WE ARE NOTHING?!

*GOOD OR BAD, LIFE OR DEATH...WHY IS IT **YOU** WHO GETS TO DECIDE?!*

WHY DO WE GET A HAPPY ENDING?

bam

WHERE DID YOU EVEN LEARN THAT *WORD* ...?!

A SUPREME BEING!!

OH, I THOUGHT YOU WERE A CRE-ATOR!

A DEMI-URGE!

I'M JUST AN ARTIST.

QUIT IT WITH THE "GOD" THING, ALL RIGHT ...?

WELL...

...IF I CAN'T EVEN GET YOU TO *SHUT UP...?!*

THINK ABOUT IT!! IF YOU HAVE NO WILL OF YOUR OWN, THEN WHY ARE YOU YELLING AT ME?! WHAT KIND OF GOD AM I...

ANYONE HOME ...?

CRAP!! THE LAYOUTS ...

ding dong

SEE?! WILL-FUL AS EVER...

...IT'S STILL YOUR FAULT!!

...I HEARD VOICES. IS SOMEONE HERE?

HERE THEY ARE--

NOPE.

MR. EDITOR IN CHIEF! I'LL JUST BE A MOMENT...

Shit ...!

CAME TO PAY A VISIT TO THE FRONT-LINES.

BEEN A WHILE ...!

...YO, NAGAI!

SO YOU DID IT...?

WELL, IF IT'S SOME-ONE GOD'S GOT TO SEE, I GUESS IT'S PRETTY IMPORTANT ...!

LOOK, WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK! DON'T GO ANYWHERE, OKAY?!

IT'S... HARD TO TELL WITH THAT GUY...

HUH. WHAT DO YOU THINK? NAGAI STILL GOT HIS MARBLES...?

HARD WORK, CREATIVITY ...

slam

MAYBE JUST ONE MORE.

タン tunk

CHEERS, YEAH.

CHEERS ...!

JUST ONE. WOULDN'T WANT MY HAND TO SHAKE, HA, HA...!

CHECK FOR TABLE THREE...

...ANY PROGRESS ?

SO...

...HAS COME TO LIFE.

THE TRUTH IS, SATOKO...

カチッ
chik

...?

IT'S...MORE LIKE I'VE LOST CONTROL OF THEM. THEY WON'T COOPERATE.

ARE YOU... TALKING TO YOUR CHARACTERS ...?

TWO FOR TABLE SEVEN...!

THAT'S AN UNDER-STATEMENT.

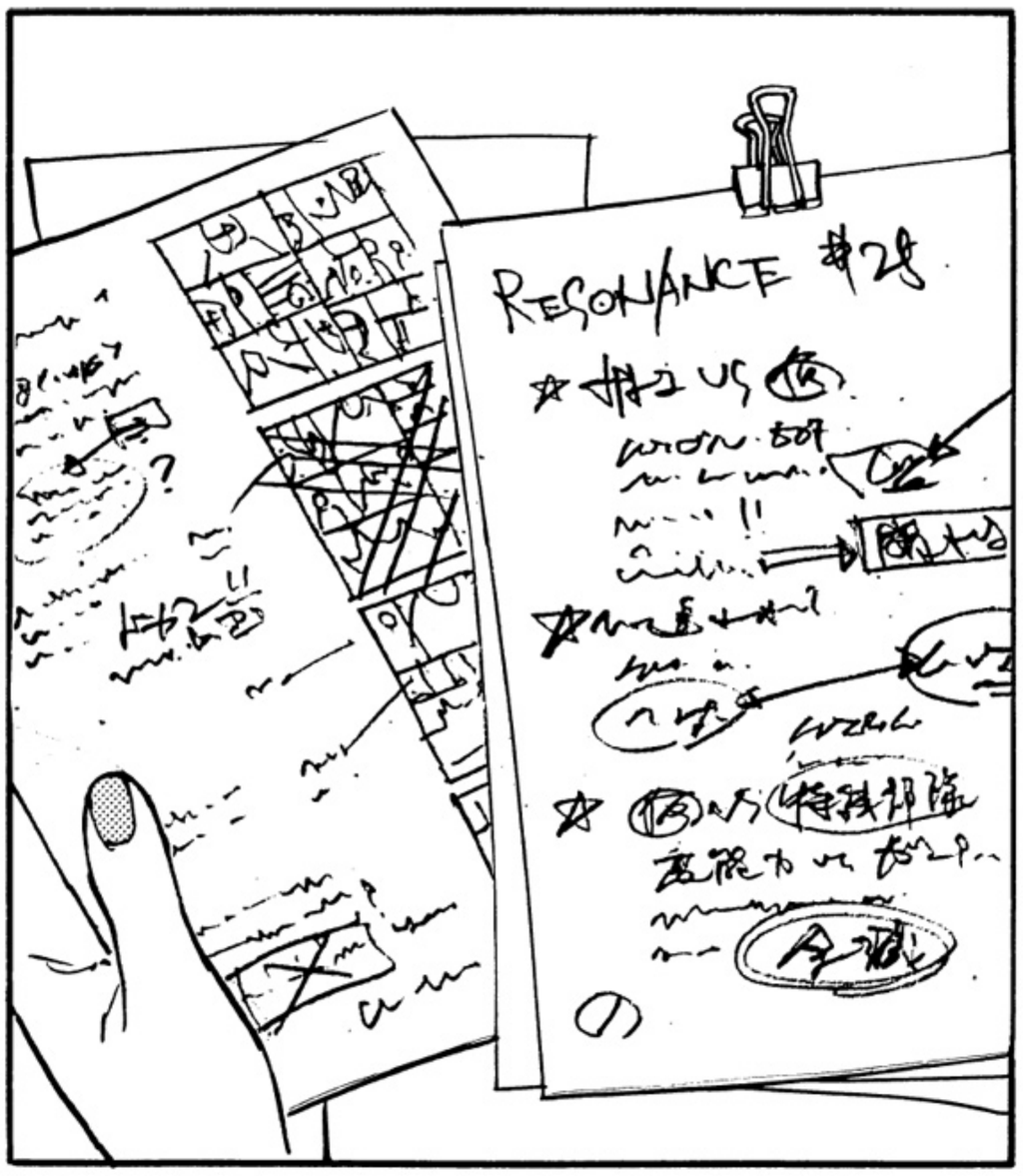
...A LIFE OF THEIR OWN.

...AND THE CHARACTERS START TO TAKE ON A LIFE OF THEIR OWN.

HEH. NOT THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD THAT FROM A CREATOR. A MANGA GOES ON FOR VOLUME AFTER VOLUME...

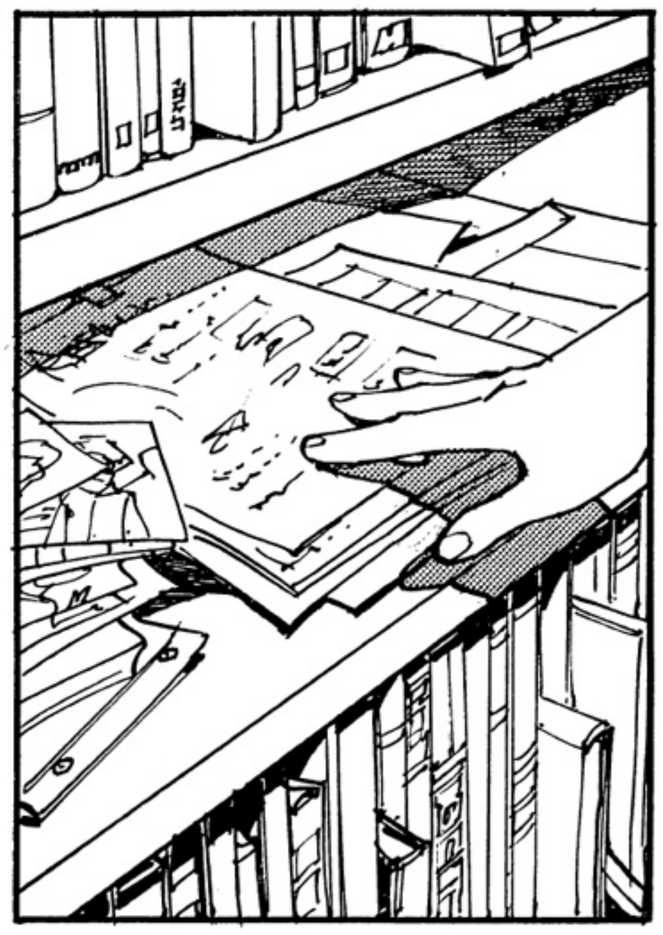



SATOKO
Can't shoot her.
Too harsh...
What about Lin...?

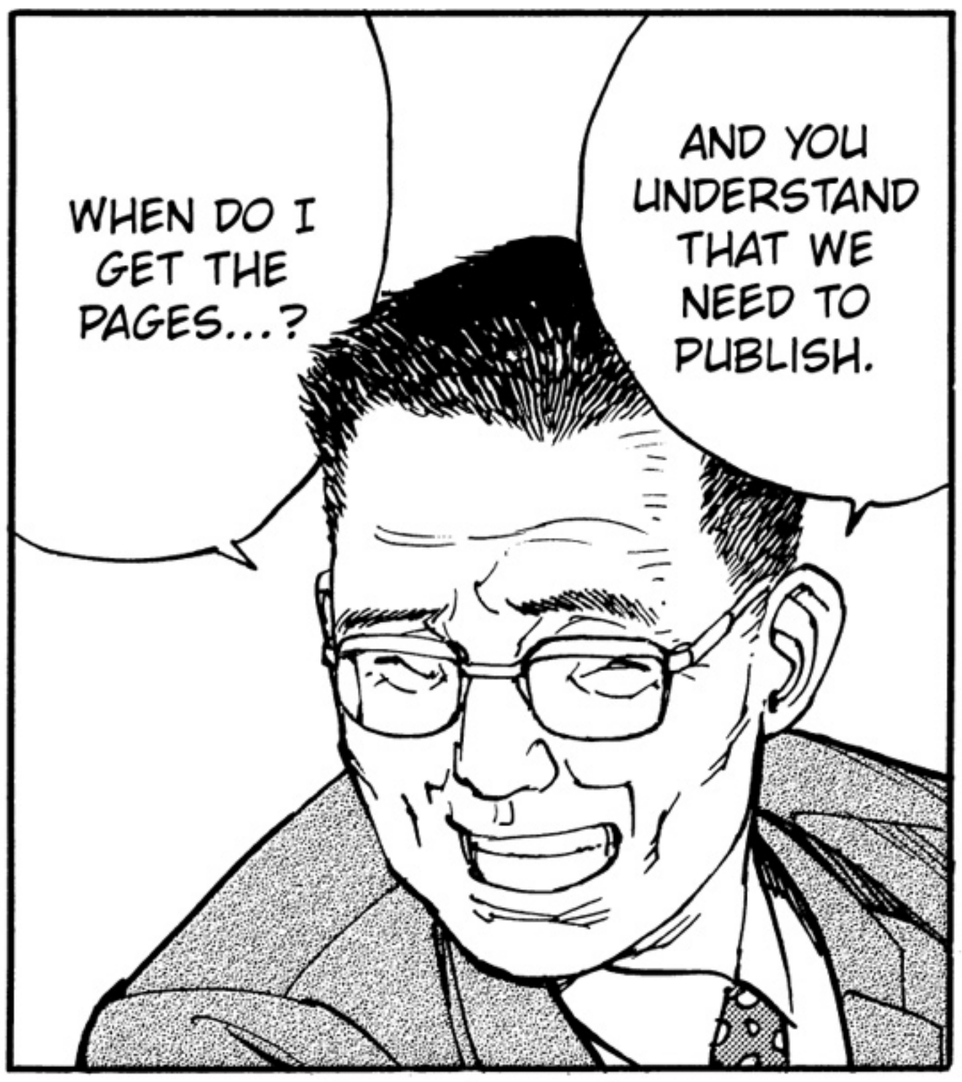

RESONANCE #2


Does someone write his world too...?






MAYBE... TWO OR THREE MORE WEEKS.


WHEN DO I GET THE PAGES...?
AND YOU UNDERSTAND THAT WE NEED TO PUBLISH.


I UNDER-STAND A LITTLE WRITER'S BLOCK.

HA, HA, HA! NO PROBLEM, SIR! I'LL **DEFINITELY** HAVE IT DONE!!

YOU CAN ACCOMMODATE THAT, CAN'T YOU? WE'VE GOT ENOUGH FILLER FOR TWO MORE ISSUES...

IF IT TAKES LONGER THAN THAT...

...I AM SO SCREWED.

OH, SATOKO...

chik chak

...SATOKO?


chapter ten

IDIOT!!

...I'M NOT THE KIND OF GIRL YOU COULD LOVE!

I...I....

...STILL SEARCHING FOR AN EXPLANATION BEHIND A RECENT RASH OF SUICIDES AT SCHOOLS...

展示品処分

DON'T WORRY, GET HIGH!!

WO

HUNDREDS DEAD IN A MASSIVE EARTHQUAKE THIS MORNING...

...CIVIL WAR LOOKS TO BE INTEN-SIFYING...

...WHAT A HORRIBLE WORLD.

IS THIS... ALL REAL ...?

...JUDGMENT IN THE CASE OF THE KIDNAPPING AND CONFINE-MENT ASSOCI-ATED WITH THE RELI-GIOUS SECT. CHURCH LEADERS DENY INVOLVE-MENT IN...

... QUIT MY JOB?

THIS SUCKS ...

MAYBE RAMEN ...?

I GOTTA GET LAID...

WOW, SHE'S UGLY!

DRINK! DRINK! DRINK! DRINK...

EH?

...

SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE SATOKO ...!

MAYBE HE'LL CALL...

DATE TONIGHT ?

...WANNA FORGET !!

EVERYONE'S THOUGHTS ARE SO *STRONG!* SO DIFFERENT FROM MY WORLD...

...LOOKS LIKE ME.

...

WHOA.

SHE...

IS THAT... GOD'S GIRL-FRIEND ...?

I'VE JUST GOTTA TELL HIM...!

SERIOUSLY!! THE RESEM-BLANCE IS INCREDIBLE ...

...SATOKO IS NOT GOING TO EMERGE FROM A SHEET OF TWO-PLY ART BOARD.

RIGHT. LOGIC SUGGESTS ...

I WAS JUST DREAM-ING.

...AM NOT GOING TO LOOK AND SEE IF THERE'S REALLY A HOLE IN THIS--

slide

AND I...

HARD AT WORK, OR HARDLY WORK-ING...?

HEY!

ピーポー

ding dong

HUH? THANKS.

PUT THIS IN THE FRIDGE.

YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO HIDE SOME-THING, ARE YOU ...?

OH, KANAE... WHAT A SURPRISE.

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THE FLOOR?

YEAH! HAIRCUT, OUTFIT, EVERY-THING...

SATOKO ?!

YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHAT I SAW AT THE STATION! A GIRL WHO LOOKED JUST LIKE SATOKO...

OH YEAH ...!

...UM... HEY...

SATOKO !!

SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE HEROINE.

WELL ...

...I'LL DO IT!!

RESONANCE

NEXT VOLUME COMING SOON!

RESONANCE
• THE MASQUE •

...!!

RESONANCE

I'M THE REAL THING.

...I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH GREAT COSPLAY ...

L-LOOK AT HER!!

RESONANCE

rrippp

THERE'S SO MANY MANGA HERE...!

A LITTLE WORLD INSIDE EACH ONE... DO *THEY* KNOW THEY'RE JUST COMIC CHARACTERS...?

?!

This is the first volume...That's me and Mr. Sawamura! So is it true? My whole life...

YES. YOU'RE NOT ALONE ANYMORE.

TOGE ?

IS HERE...

NO ...

THAT WAS LIN THERE... BUT HOW ...?!

AAAA!!

IDIOT!!

IF YOU DON'T EXPECT CHANGE.

...IS THIS ENOUGH?

UM... UM...

S-SORRY ...!

STUPID WOMAN! DAMAG-ING OUR BOOKS ...

CAN I HELP YOU FIND SOMETHING ...?

SATOKO!! WHERE DID YOU GO...?!

WHY WON'T MY CHARACTERS LISTEN TO ME...?

skreeee

CASHER

KANAE SAID SHE SAW HER NEAR THE STATION...

I CAN'T GET AWAY FROM IT ANY-WHERE!

RESONANCE

NEXT VOLUME COMING SOON!

RESONANCE

OTHE MASQUER

...SHIT!

hahh

hahh

...SHIT. NOT HERE.

THAT WAS DEFINITELY LIN AND ATOM, BUT...

flip

flip

7...

plip

plop

sshhhhhh

...AND HE HATES WAITING ...

IT'S OUR SON'S BIRTHDAY, AFTER ALL...

CRAP !

...AFTER NINE. NOW I'LL HAVE TO HEAR IT.

IT'S COLD! HE COULD AT LEAST COME PICK UP HIS OWN WIFE...

...God will be worried.

MAYBE I SHOULD GET BACK TOO...

THEY ALL HAVE SOMEONE WAITING FOR THEM.

WATCH IT YOUR-SELF, JERK ...

WATCH IT, IDIOT!!

ブオン

vrooom

skreeeeech

!!

カンカンカンカン

chak chak chak chak

ゴオオオ

rrrummbbll

ゴオオオ

WHOOOOOOM

TRAIN GOING BY...

I SWEAR IT'S SLOWING *DOWN!* NOW THERE'RE SIRENS...

WHEN'S THIS TRAIN GONNA FINISH CROSSING? I'M GOING CRAZY...

IF I CAN'T EVEN DRAW LIN, WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITHOUT *SATOKO* ...?

MAYBE SHE WENT BACK TO THE STUDIO...

D-DID... DID IT HIT...?!

hahh
hahh
hahh
hahh
hahh
ゴオオオ
whooo ooooo
...IF THERE IS A REAL GOD...I GUESS HE'S AN ASSHOLE TOO.
...YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!!
krsshhh
I WANTED TO SEE THE REAL WORLD. NOT A MANGA.
S-SORRY... I JUST LEFT AND TOOK YOUR MONEY.

THIS WORLD ISN'T WHAT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE...

THAT ACCIDENT ...?

SHE WAS THINKING OF ALL THE THINGS SHE WAS GOING TO DO TONIGHT.

MAYBE IT INFLUENCES THE WAY I WRITE YOU.

...I SEE IT'S NOT SO DIFFERENT AROUND HERE.

... BUT ...

I THOUGHT OUR LIVES WERE HARD BECAUSE WE WERE IN SOMEONE ELSE'S STORY...

...IT'S OVER.

I WISH I COULD. I JUST FEEL LIKE...

CAN YOU MAKE IT BETTER ?

YOU REALLY FEEL THAT WAY?

AND MAYBE YOU COULD HAVE MADE OUR WORLD A BIT BETTER THAN YOURS. BUT YOU WEREN'T BEING CRUEL, *WERE* YOU? THAT'S SOME COMFORT, AT LEAST.

I DON'T HAVE ANY ALTERNATIVE BUT TO LEAVE IT UNFINISHED!!

...BUT I CAN'T DRAW *RESONANCE* ANYMORE, EVEN IF I TRY.

IT'S NOT LIKE I *WANT* TO WALK AWAY...

NO! I'M JUST GONNA HAVE TO QUIT THE MANGA!

YOU'RE JUST GONNA LEAVE US?!

...BUT YOU'RE ***GONE*** FROM ME NOW! GOD HAS LOST HIS POWER TO CREATE-- DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND ...?

LOOK, I *DID* CREATE YOU...

YOU *ARE* GOING TO LEAVE US! DON'T WE DESERVE AN ENDING ...?

I DON'T KNOW.

...WHAT HAPPENS TO US?

I FIGURED IT OUT. I NEED YOU AND LIN WORKING WITH ME TO FINISH THE STORY. WORKING AGAINST ME LIKE THIS... I'M LOST.

I NEED YOU TO CHOOSE, SATOKO.

IT'S NOT JUST MY WILL BE DONE.

...MY WORK ISN'T JUST ME. I HAVE INFLUENCES AND THOUGHTS THAT ALL PULL TOGETHER TO BECOME THE WORLDS AND PEOPLE I CREATE.

THERE'S THAT.

IT'S THE EDITOR IN CHIEF'S WILL, EH?

I WON'T SAY.

WHY NOT?

NO.

IF YOU THINK I'M LYING, LOOK INSIDE ME!

MY CHOICE ...HUH.

IT'S NOT IN MY NOTES.

WHAT? WHERE DID *THAT* DIALOGUE COME FROM...?

WEIRD.

AFTER ALL, YOU DON'T WANT TO MEET THE GOD WHO MADE *YOU*, DO YOU ...?

HUH?

I'LL FIGHT TO PROTECT IT.

I'M NOT GOING TO ABANDON IT.

EH?

ANYWAYS, I THINK IT'S TIME TO SAVE THE WORLD. MY WORLD.

I'M THE HEROINE, AFTER ALL.

RIGHT.

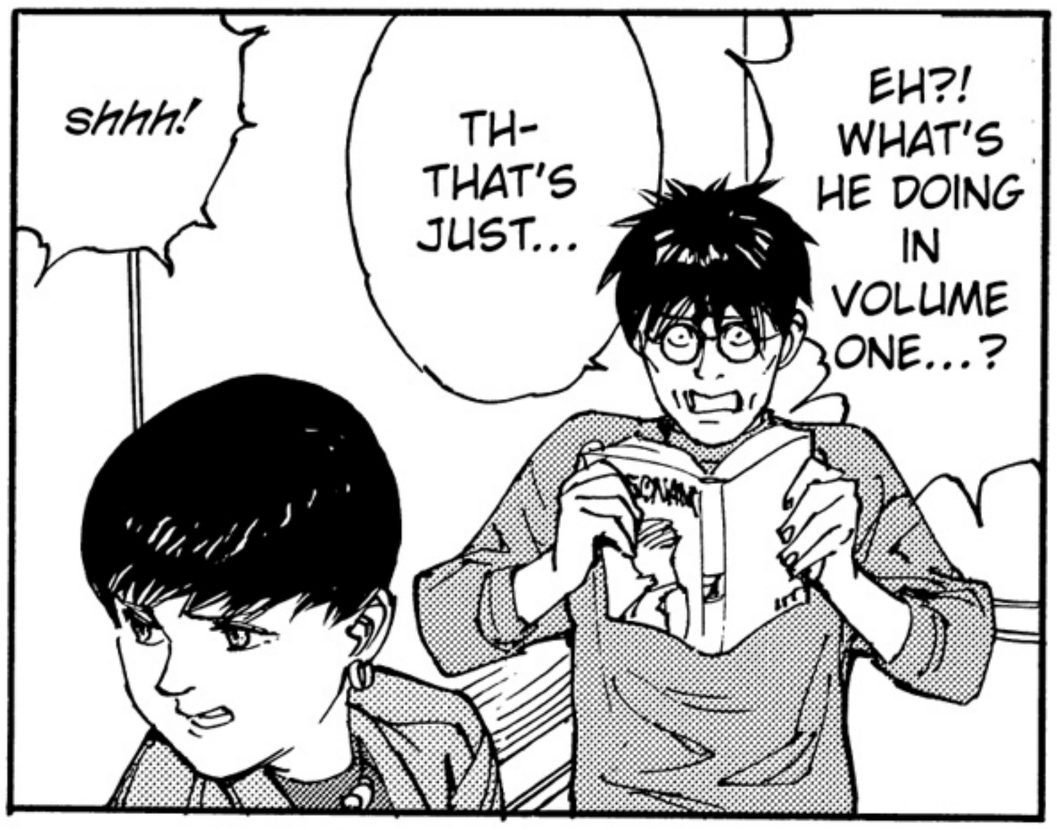
...LOOKS LIKE THE CHIEF IS GONE. LET'S GO!

...AND DO IT ALL BEFORE DEADLINE.

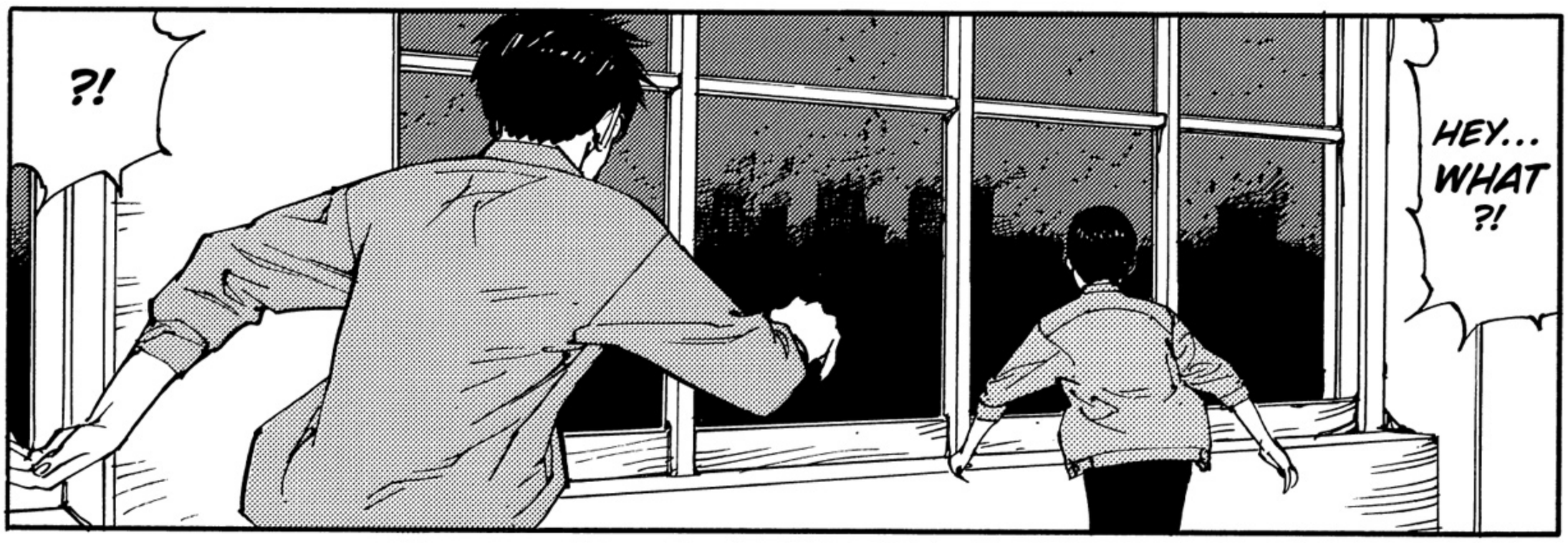
IT'S ALL VERY SIMPLE... SAVE THE WORLD... FINISH THE STORY...

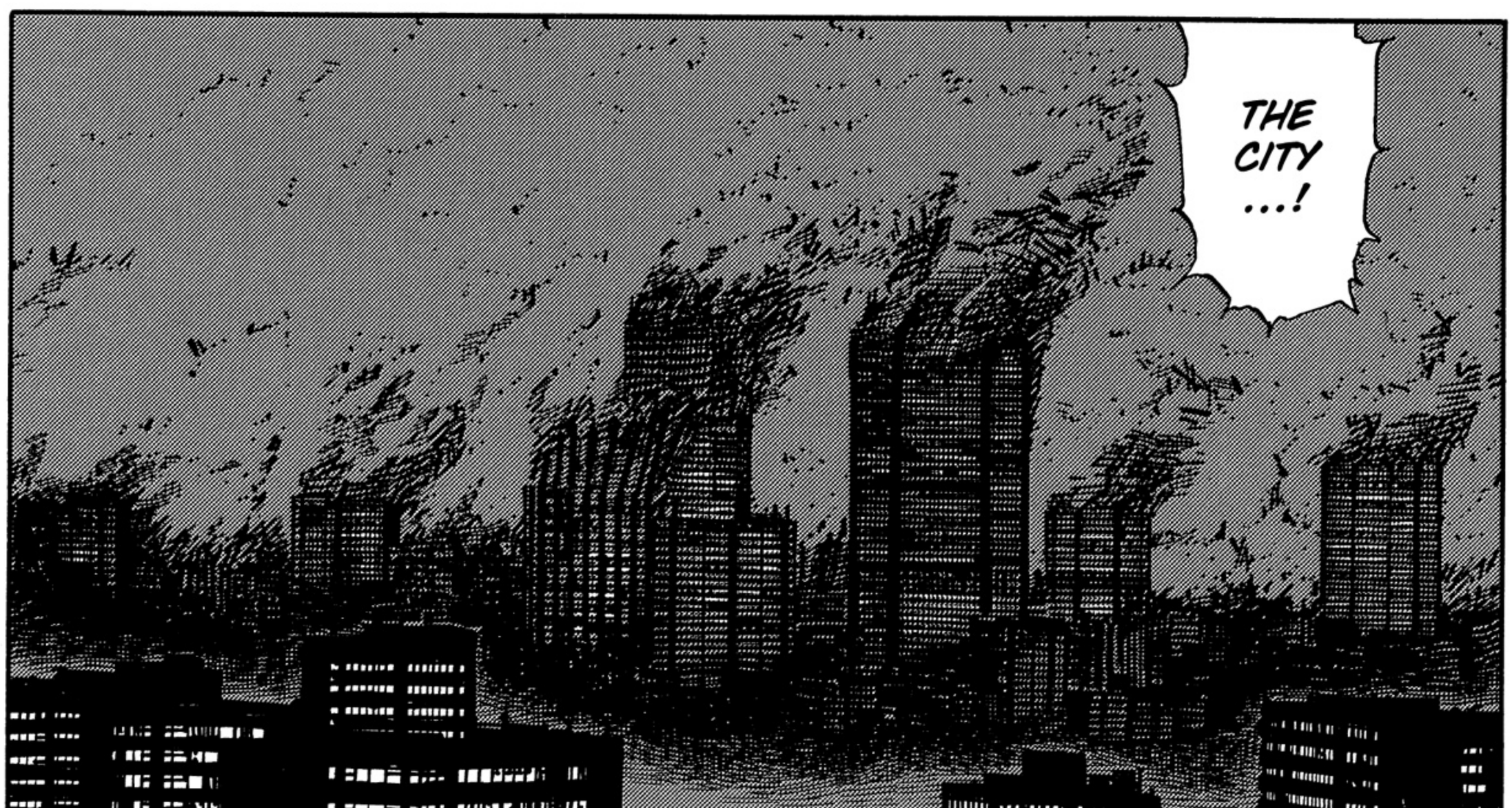
...THIS ISN'T GOING TO END WELL.

You can run, but you can't hide, asshole! —Your Editor


SHHH!
TH-THAT'S JUST...
EH?! WHAT'S HE DOING IN VOLUME ONE...?
...


I HAVE A HUNCH.
FIRST THING WE'VE GOT TO DO IS FIND LIN...


?!
HEY... WHAT ?!


THE CITY ...!

PERFECT BLUE

2

SATOSHI KON

PERFECT BLUE

2



SATOSHI KON

DESONANCE OPUS


chapter eleven

flashhh

ギアアッ

ゴオオォ

ROAAAARRRR

IT'S COMING FROM THE WEST...!

ズズズ

sssHHHHHH

...HOW SHOULD I KNOW?! YOU TELL ME!!

I WORKED HARD DRAWING THAT!! WHY IS THIS HAPPENING ...?

THE CITY! IT'S DIS-INTEGRAT-ING...!

YOU *WONDER?* YOU BETTER FIGURE IT OUT FAST! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING !!

I WONDER IF THIS HAS TO DO WITH ME DROP-PING THE SERIES.

UM... WELL.

WHO *ELSE* COULD CAUSE THIS?!

YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU...

!!

...OR RESONANCE *IS FINISHED!!*

LIN... WE'VE GOT TO FIND LIN!

...BEFORE WE GET SWALLOWED UP...

WE WON'T DO ANYTHING IF WE CAN'T ESCAPE THIS AREA...

ガン
whok

...LOOK OUT!!

...SATOKO!!

カ
klakk

ド
thudd

...HEY!!

HEY...

KRAK

KRAK

ドカ
KRAKK

YAAAA!

DROP IT...

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER... I'LL...I'LL SHOOT!!

ズゴッ
skrrkkk

LISTEN TO ME! ARE YOU R-REALLY TRYING TO KILL ME...?!

チャッ
chak

...BUT TO RUN!!

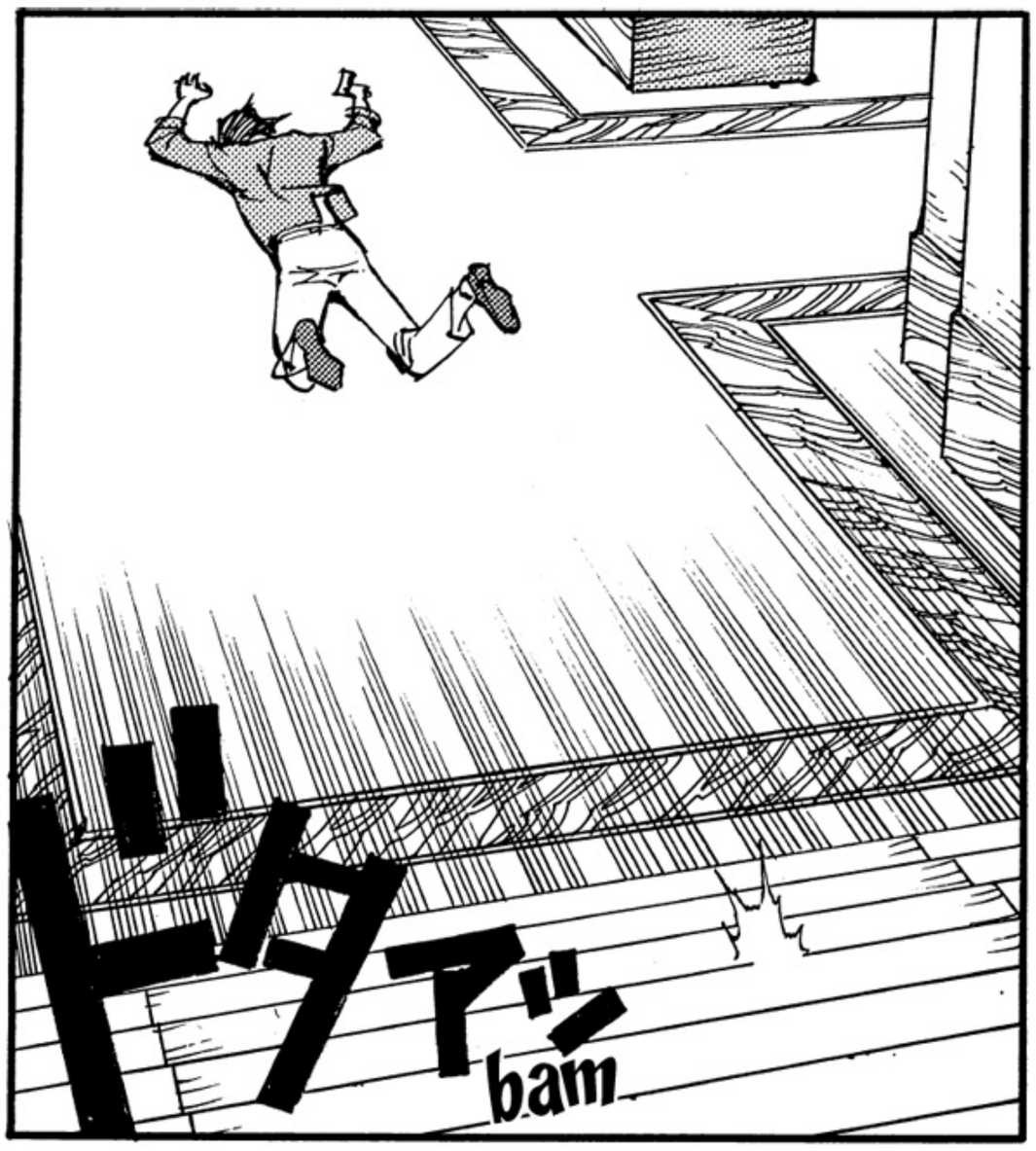
IT'S... NO USE... HE'S UNDER CONTROL.

THEN I'VE GOT NO CHOICE...

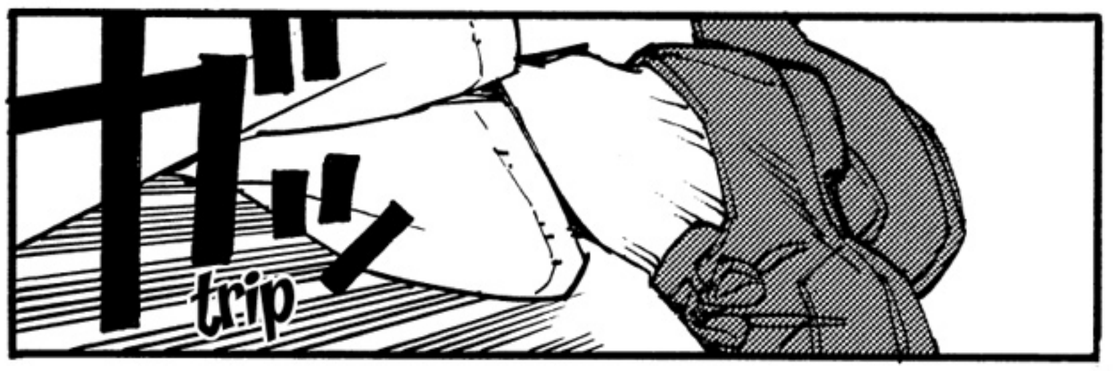
ボゴ
whump

WHOA--

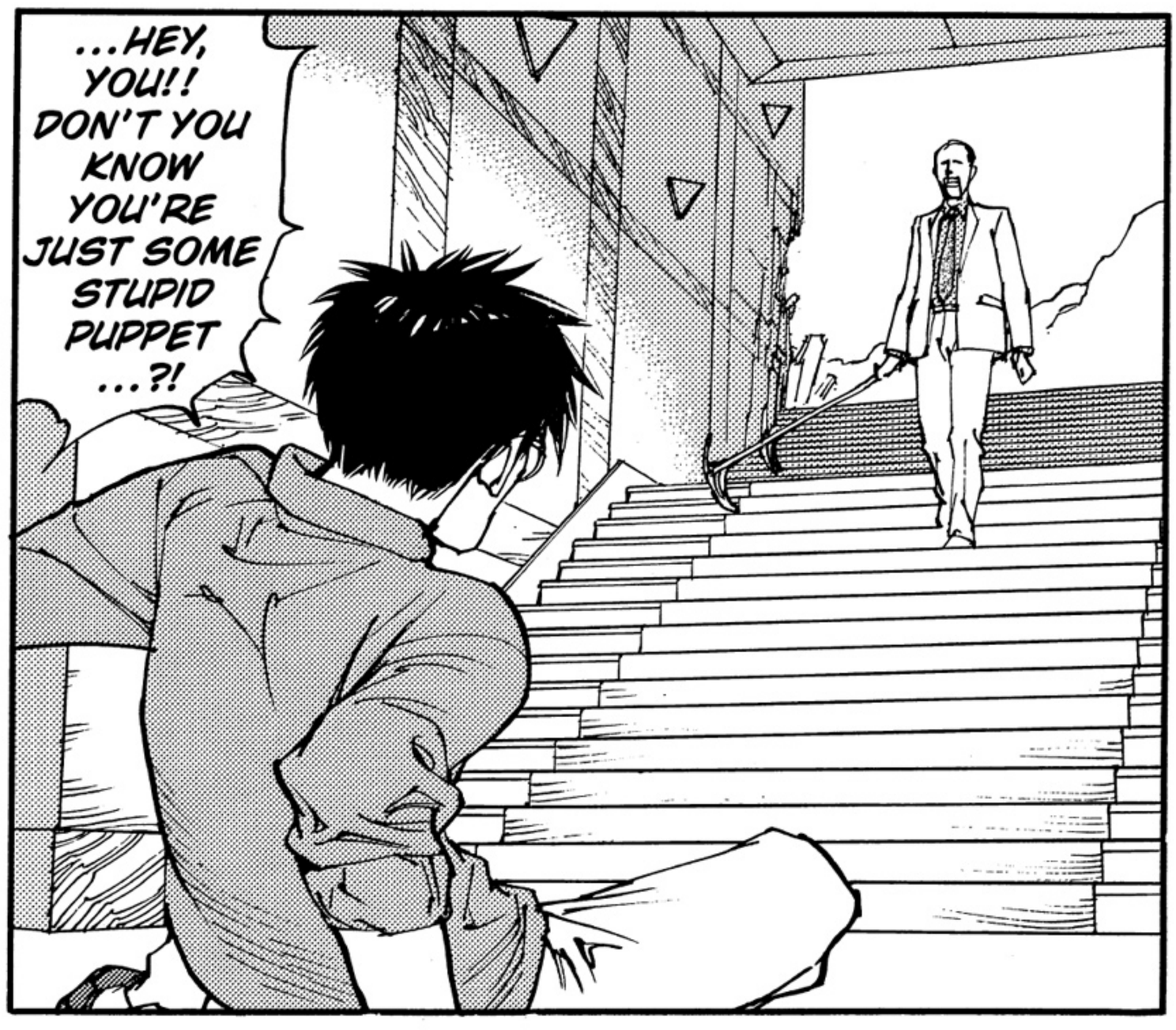
ドカッ
RAKK

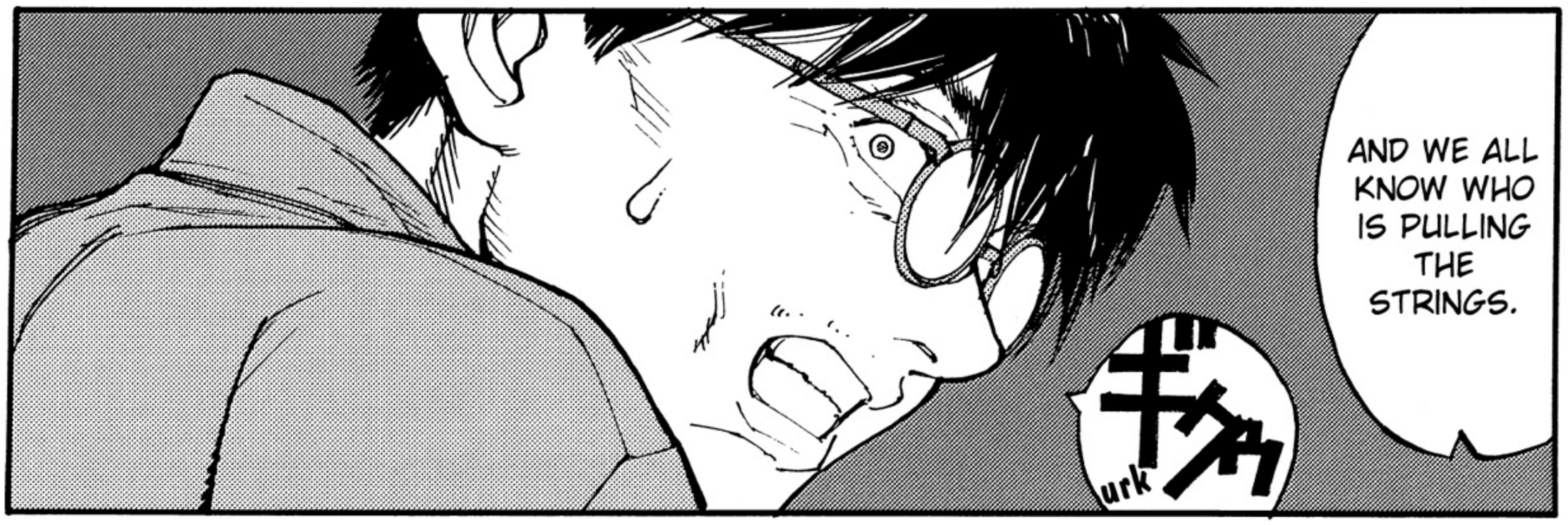

ドカアッ
bam


WHOA...
WHOA...
WHOA...


ゴロン
trip

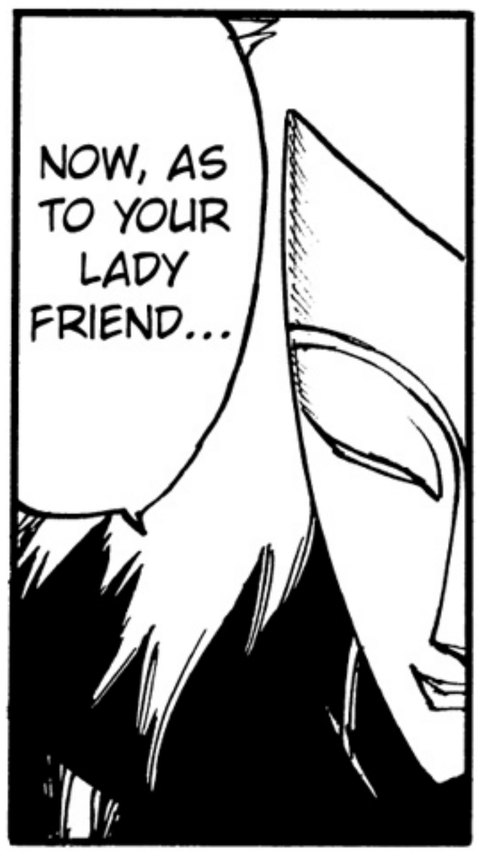

NATURALLY.

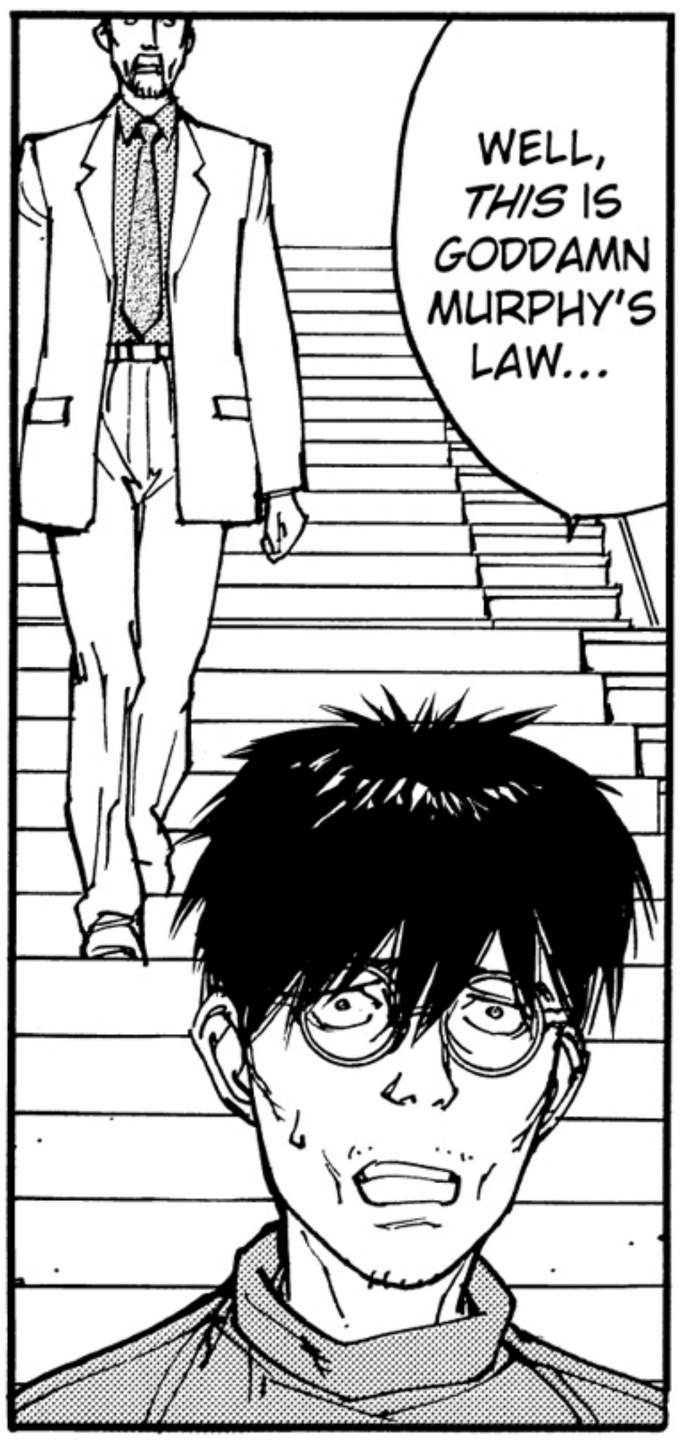

...HEY, YOU!! DON'T YOU KNOW YOU'RE JUST SOME STUPID PUPPET ...?!

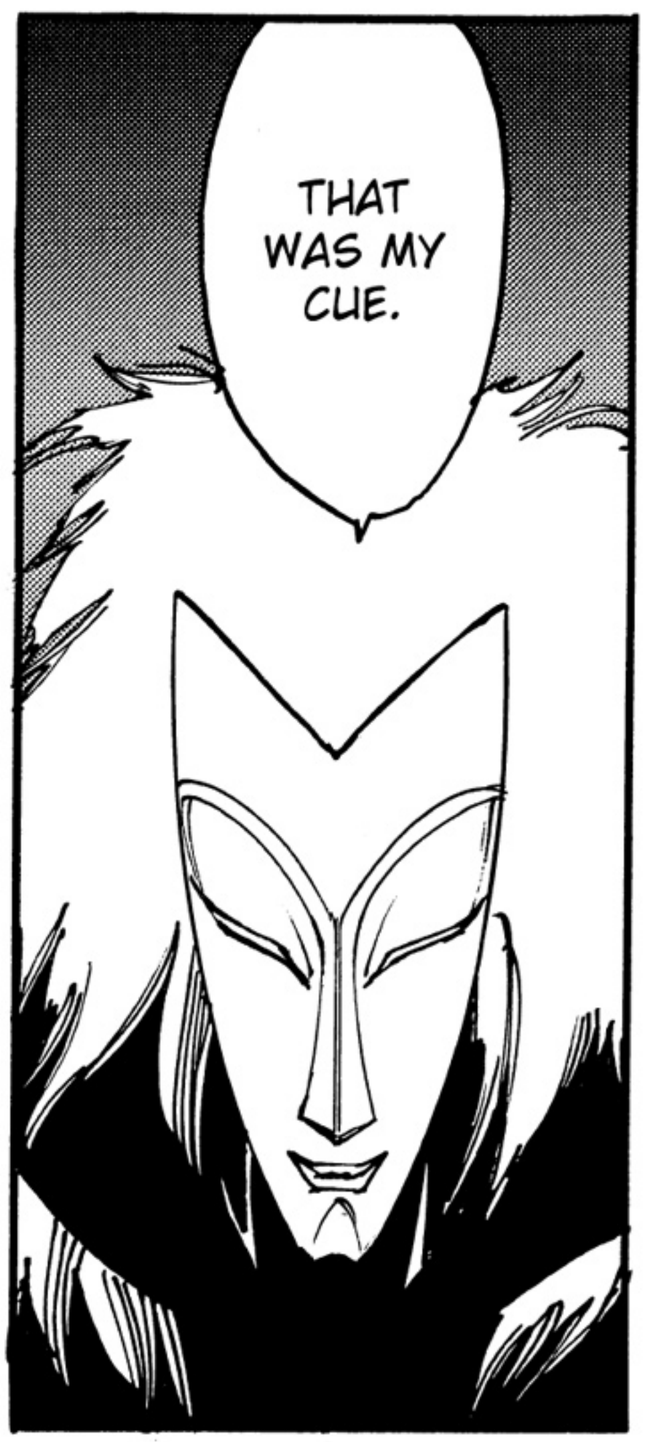

AND WE ALL KNOW WHO IS PULLING THE STRINGS.
ギュッ
urk






NOW, AS TO YOUR LADY FRIEND...


WELL, THIS IS GODDAMN MURPHY'S LAW...


THAT WAS MY CUE.


...SATOKO!!

HEY...

plink
tatata

fwoosh

...NO!!

JUST A CHANGE IN AUTHORSHIP.

NO. NOTHING'S ENDING.

YOU'VE PISSED OFF GOD!! I'LL END YOU!

DO YOU UNDER-STAND WHO I AM...?!

glare

FIND HIM YOUR-SELF, WITH ALL YOUR "POWER" !!

NOW... WHERE IS THAT BRAT LIN?

WHAT A PATHETIC GOD YOU ARE. YOUR CREATION CRUMBLING AROUND YOU...AND YOU CAN'T STOP IT.

OH, SO YOU'RE GOING TO DRAW MY COMICS...?

''',.

DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU HAD A CHOICE IN THE MATTER...?

...WHEN I CREATED YOU.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I WAS THINKING ...

BUT CAN THIS WORLD EXIST WITHOUT ME? THIS *RESONANCE* ...?

GO AHEAD.

...THE WRATH OF GOD.

I'M WARNING YOU, DON'T COME ANY CLOSER! OR I'LL SHOW YOU...

...DOESN'T DESERVE TO SURVIVE!!

A WORLD THIS FUCKED UP...

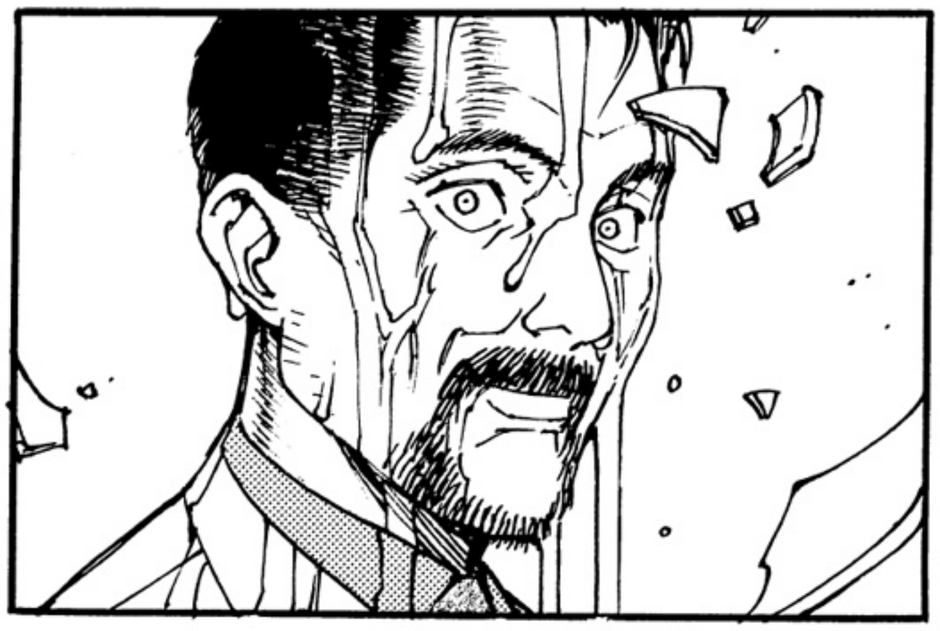
SSHHHHHH

kkritch
kkritch

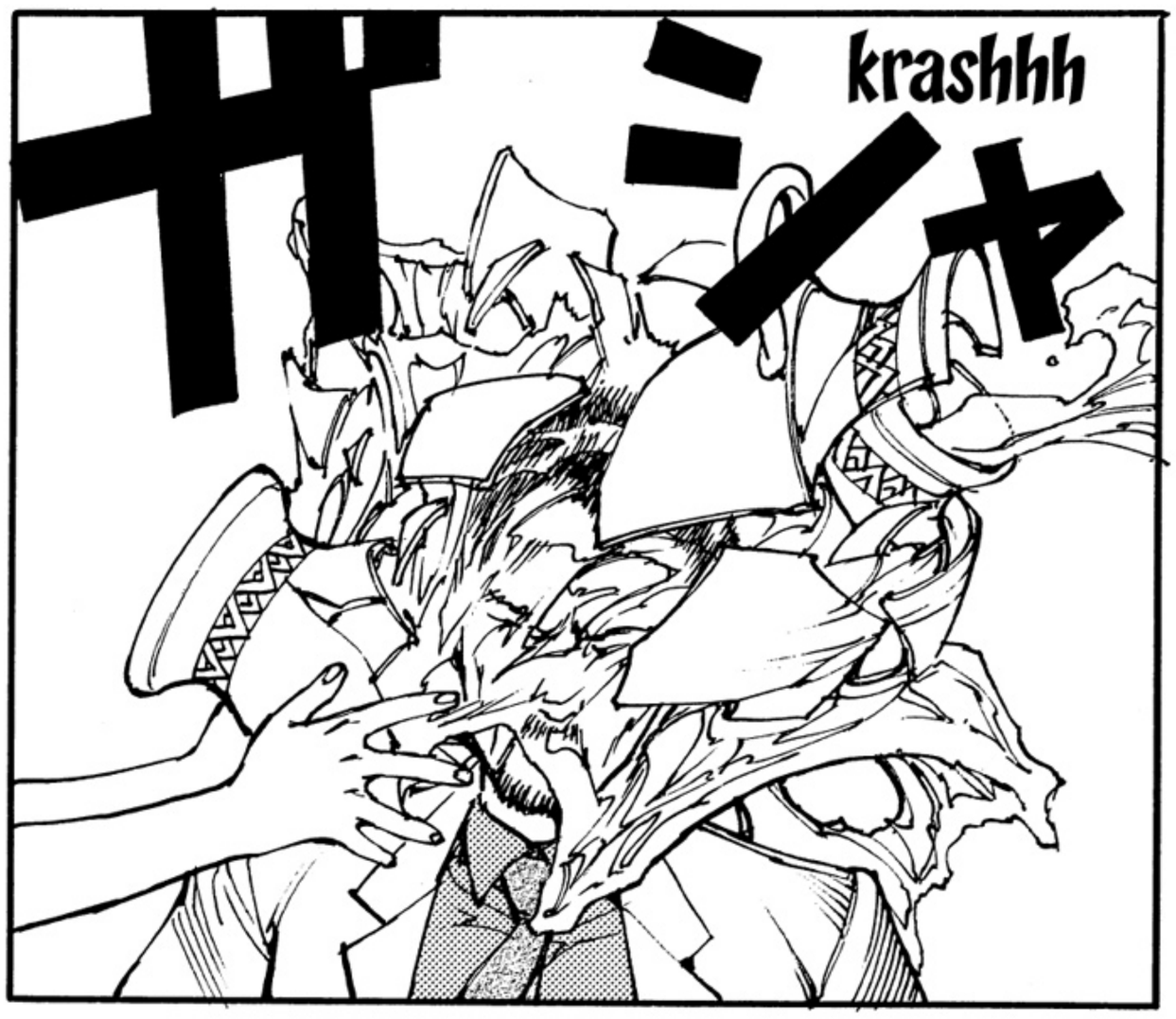
skrikk
skrikk
skrikk

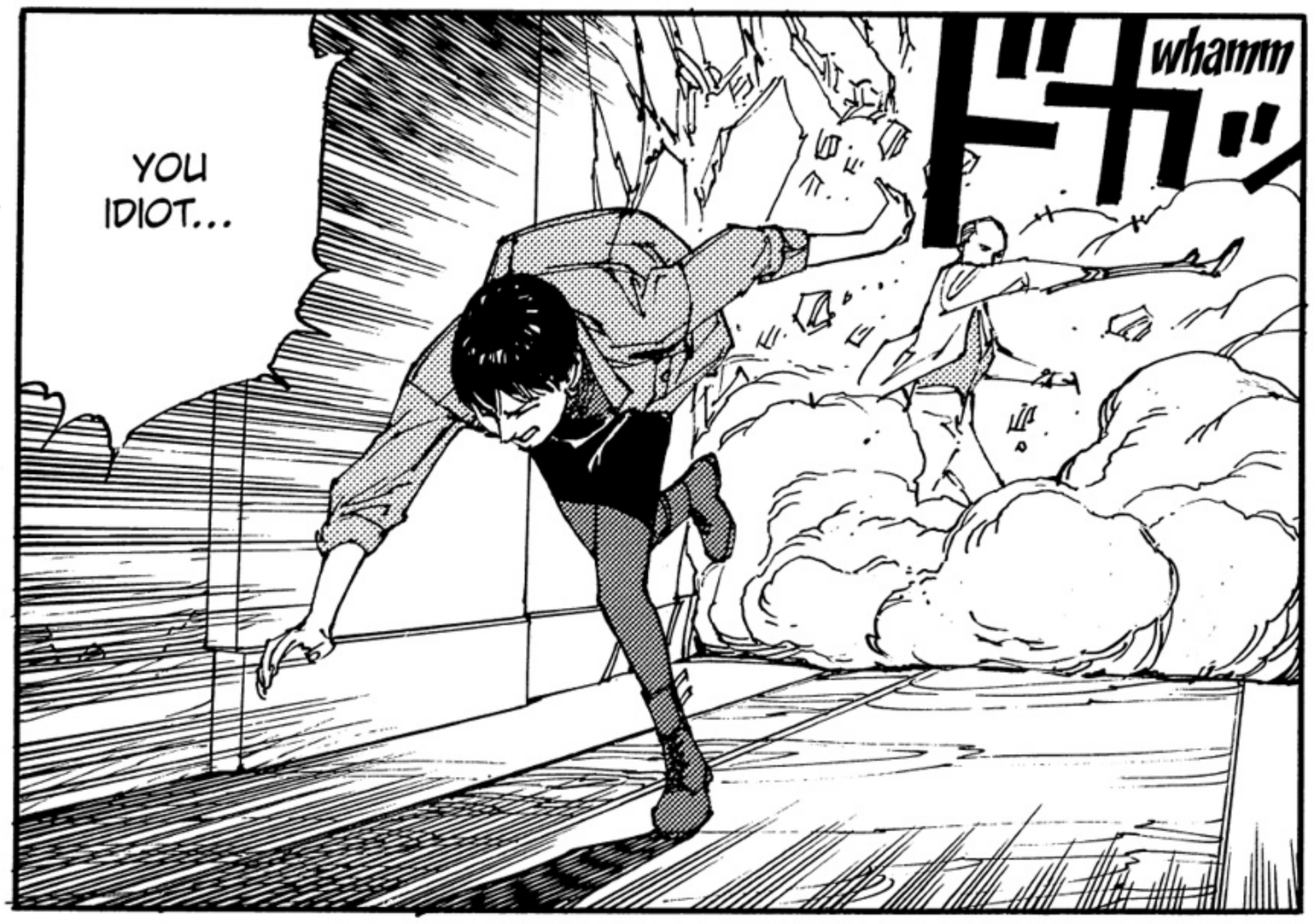
whoosh

skrikk
skrikk
skrikk

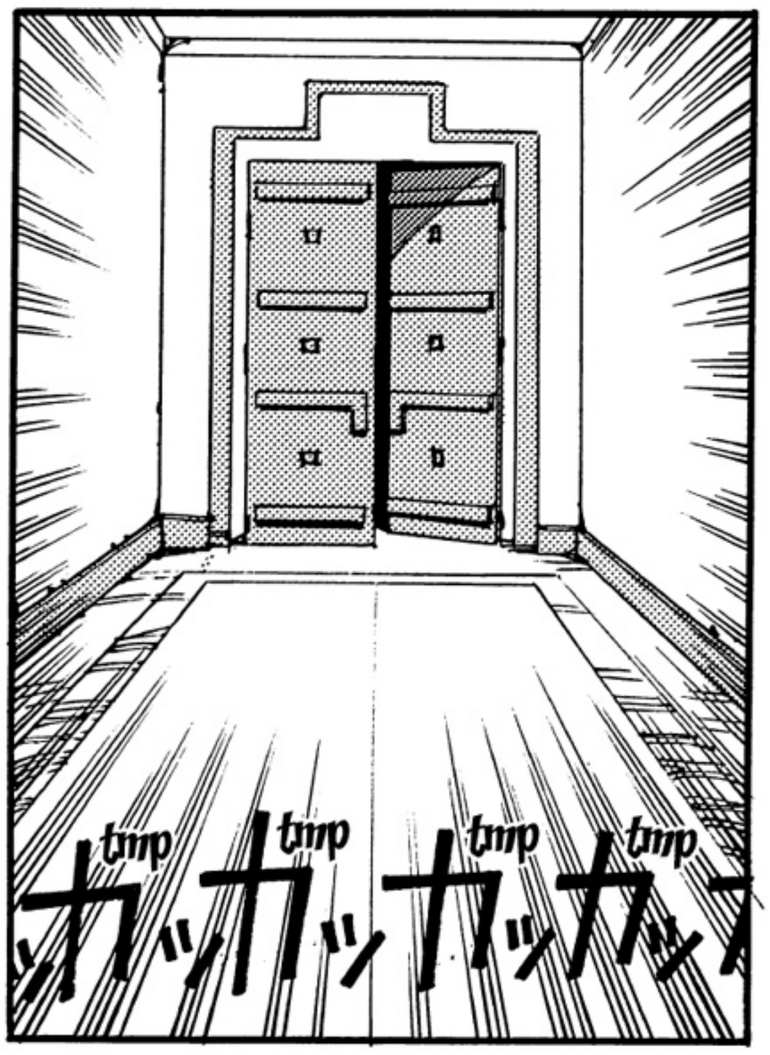





krashhh


YOU IDIOT...
whamm


KRAKK
KYAAA!!


tmp
tmp
tmp
tmp

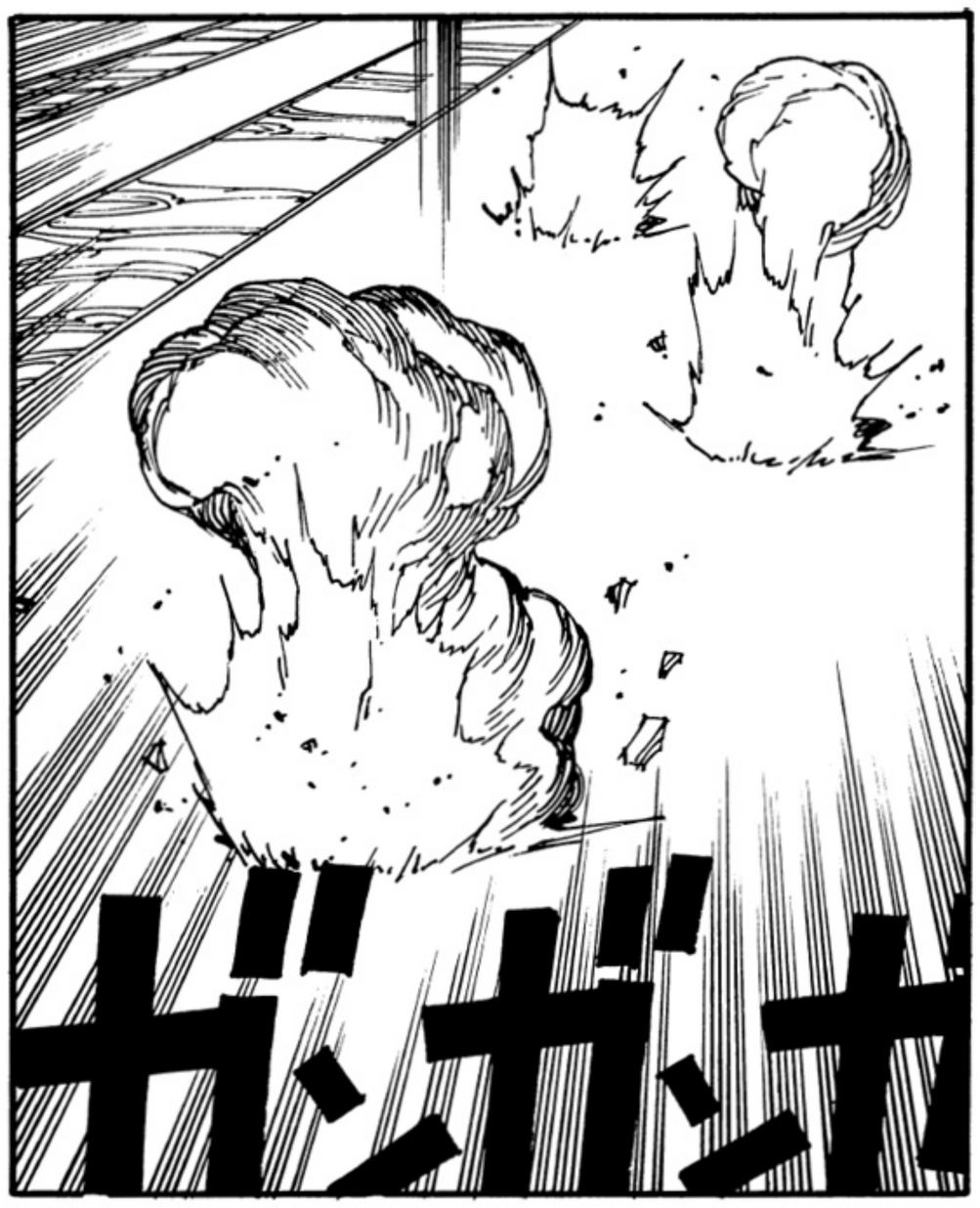

...GOD, WHERE DID YOU GO?!


tap
tap

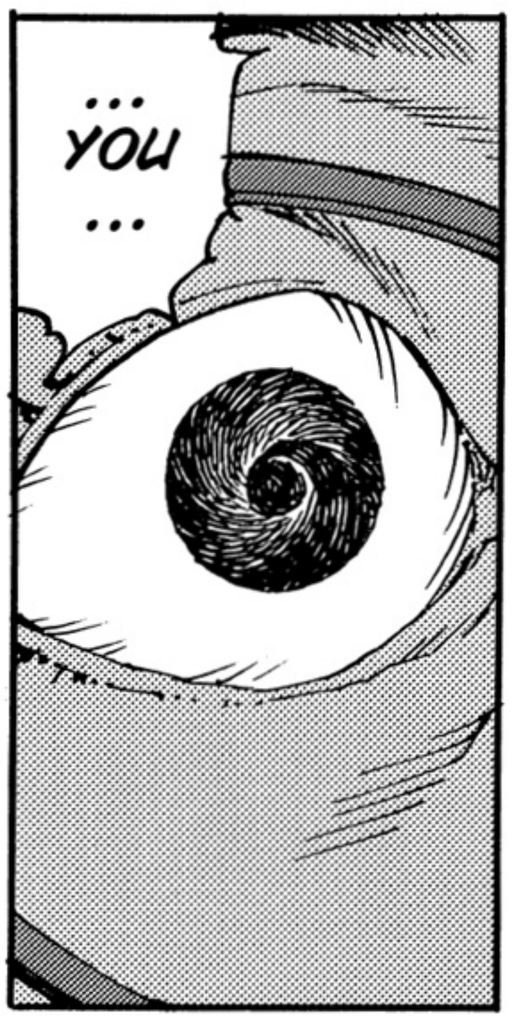
ガシャン
SKRAAANGGG
...!!
ガシャン
slammm
ガン
klangg
ガン
klangg
ガン
klangg
ガン
klangg
HE'S TOO STRONG ...!
...
SHIT!!
ズアアア
sshhhhh
ズアアア
sshhhhhhh

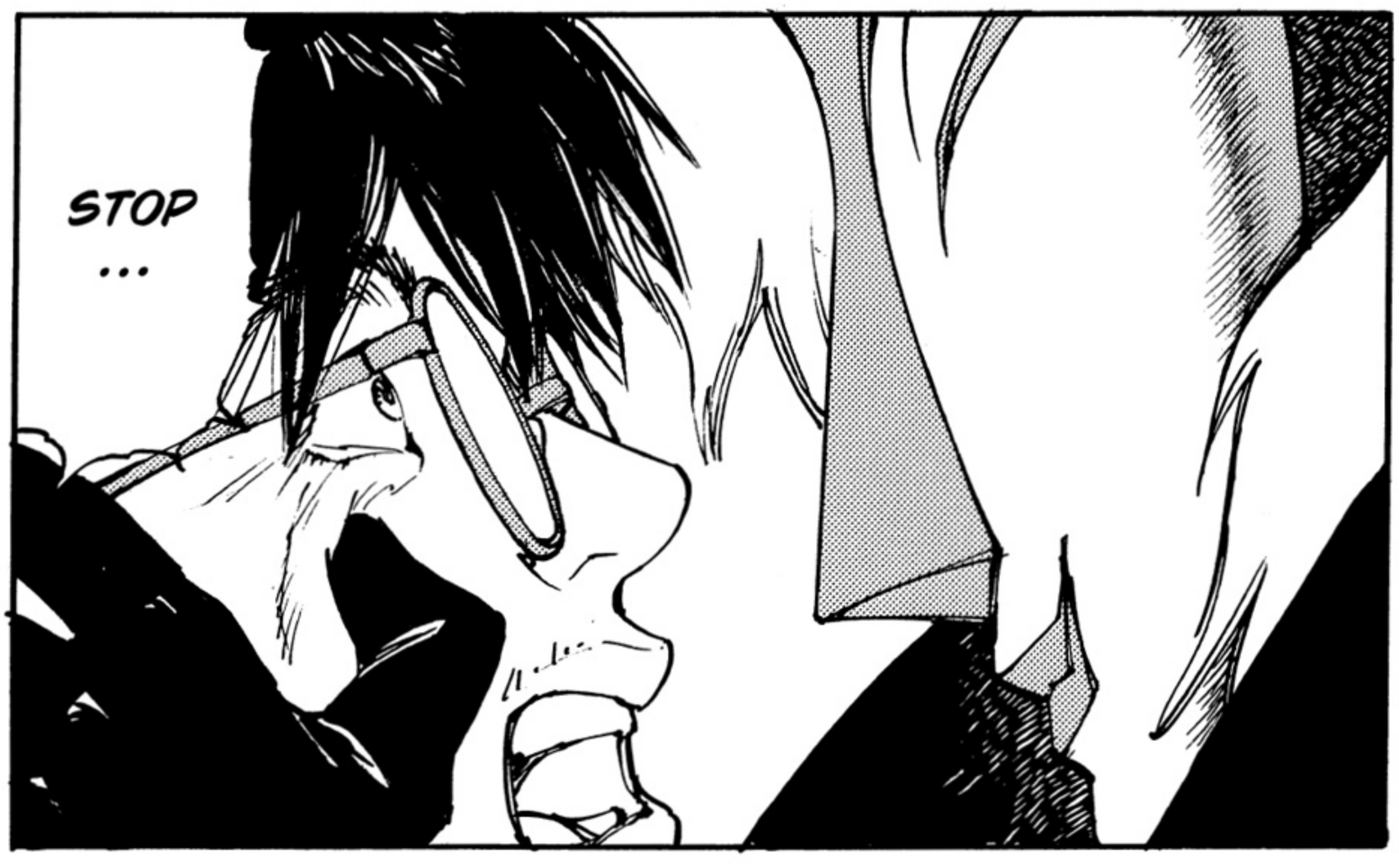

...?!


...
WHERE
...
...


ガ・ガ・ナ


!!
THIS IS HOW A GOD ACTS.


...
YOU
...


STOP
...


スイ
whiirrrll


ughhkk


AAAAAAAAAA



HE BREAKS DOWN THE WALL OF INDIVIDUALITY--LEADS YOU TO A DEEPER CONSCIOUSNESS. AT LEAST THAT'S THE LURE HE USES TO BRAINWASH PEOPLE AND CONTROL THEM...

YEAH. A MYSTERIOUS CULT LEADER. FOUNDER OF "THE NAMELESS FAITH."

THAT'S YOUR NEW VILLAIN ...?

I MEAN, THAT'D BE COOL, HUH? CONTROLLING PEOPLE.

HE'S INCREDIBLY POWERFUL. AND YOU KNOW HOW POWER CORRUPTS ...

SO IT'S THIS MASQUE'S BRAINWASH-ING...AGAINST SATOKO'S EMPATHIC SKILL?

IF I DON'T WORK HARD NOW, WE CAN'T GO OUT LATER.

THEN WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

...I KNOW YOUR WORK IS IMPORTANT TO YOU.

YOUR DREAM COME TRUE...

I'LL BE FINE...SO LONG AS I DON'T END UP AS A TEACHER.

NAGAI !!

WHAT WILL BECOME OF YOU...?

DRAWING MANGA ALL DAY, NAGAI? THINK ABOUT YOUR GRADES! YOUR FUTURE!

...GO PLAY SOMEWHERE ELSE!!

YOU SUCK, NAGAI!!

smack

YOU DESIRE POWER.

ヒョオッ
wshhh

ボアアー
Shhhhhhhh

...DON'T TOUCH ME!!

NO...

krakk

BLAM

?!



chapter twelve

ROARRRR

COME ON... COME ON!!

bangg bangg

ROARRRR

...IT'S JUST ANOTHER TRAP.

snapp

krikkkkk

PLEASE, LET THIS BE A WAY OUT...

skrangg

ガラ

!!

ズズズ

sshhhhhh

ROARRR

ガアア

chak

ガラン

...LET'S SEE WHO THE MAIN CHARACTER IS HERE.

fwip

klatter klatter klatter

klak

HE'S GONE...?

WHERE'S ...

...WHOA!

ズゴゴ

ROARRRRR

...WHERE'S SATOKO ?!

ズオオ

ROARRRR

ガキン

klangg

uhhh!!

whamm

...NO !!

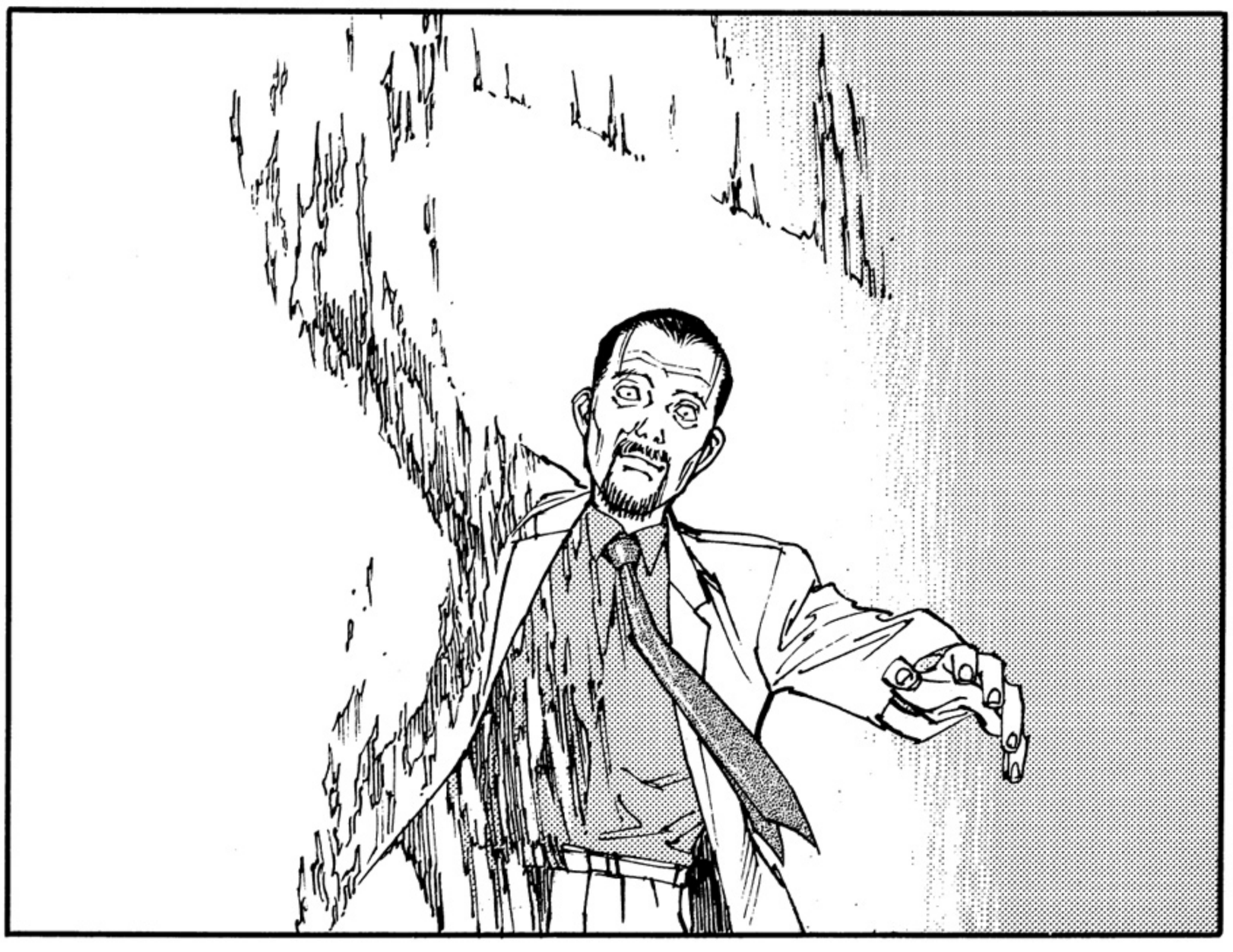
ドカ thakk

ドカ krakk

ドカ krakk

ドカ krakk





...SATOKO !!

EEEEYAAA!!!

!!

LET GO ...!

AAAAAAAAAA...!

AAAA ...!

...D-DON'T !!

SATOKO !!

AAAA

WHAT'S HAPPENING ...?

SATOKO ...

wsshhhh

GOD HELP ME...

NO...!

ROARRRR

ズアァ

ROARRRR

NO...
NO...!!

NO...

ROARRR

ザアア



...OW.

bam!

...HEY!

...I'M FLOATING, I GUESS.

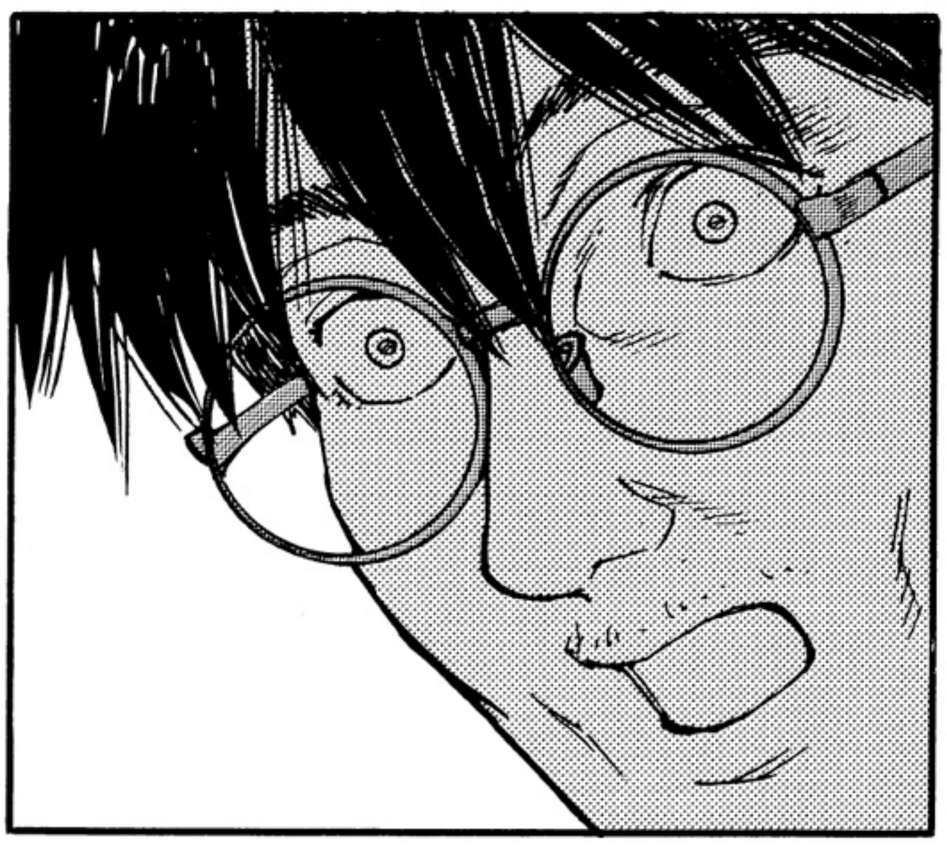
IS THIS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE... ERASED ...?

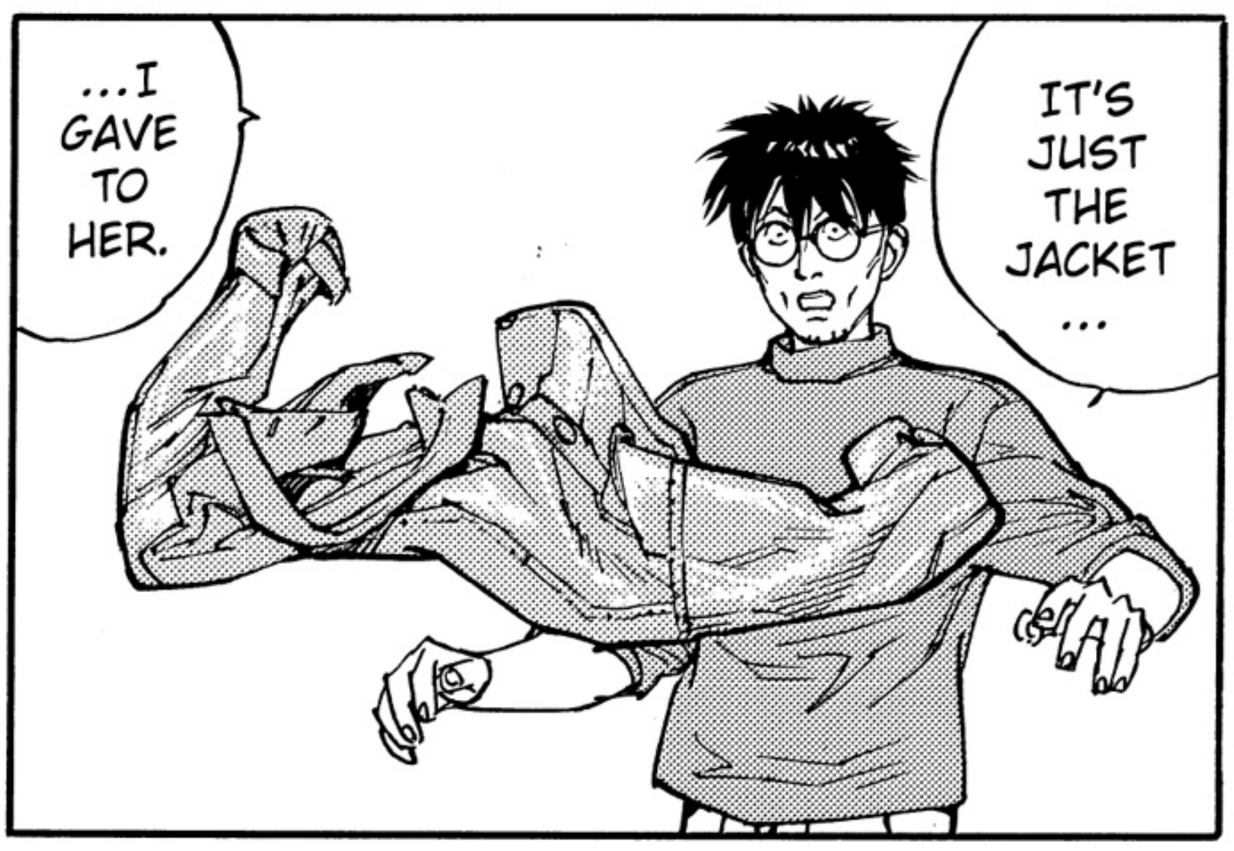
...NO, WAIT. I'M HEADING DOWN...











...SATOKO, WHERE ARE YOU?!



WHAT NOW...?

I'M HUNGRY, I'M ALONE...

rustle

I'VE STILL GOT A DEADLINE, AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO GET BACK ...

I DIDN'T SAVE SATOKO. I DIDN'T SAVE MY MANGA.

...HEEEEYYYYY!!

...IS THAT YOU, GOD?

HEEEYYYY...!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

MEI...

munch

munch

munch

IF I TOLD YOU, WOULD YOU SPARE HIM YOUR...DIVINE WRATH?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE'S PLANNING, TOO...?

YOU KNEW ?!

HAS THE WORLD STARTED DISAP-PEARING YET...?

YES, I KNEW HIS ACTIONS WOULD HAVE GRAVE CON-SEQUENCES.

YOU FOLLOWED *LIN?!*

THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE...!

...BUT DESTROY THE MASQUE ?!

PREVIOUS EXISTENCE? SATOKO SAID SHE SAW HIM IN VOLUME ONE...

HA. I'M NOT REALLY THE DIVINE-WRATH TYPE OF GOD.

HE JOURNEYED TO HIS PREVIOUS EXISTENCE. TO DESTROY THE MASQUE.

IF HE FEELS LIKE ANSWER-ING...

...GO THIS WAY.

INCLUDING HIS *OWN* EXISTENCE. MEI, CAN YOU CONTACT HIM?

WELL, WE CAN'T LET HIM. THAT WOULD TEAR AWAY THE VERY FOUNDATION OF THIS WORLD.

HE'LL DO IT.

I WAS SCARED AT FIRST ...

BUT THEN I WENT DOWN AN ALLEY WHERE I HAD NEVER GONE BEFORE...

LIN SAID THIS WORLD WAS FULL OF HOLES...

HOW DID YOU GET HERE ANYWAY, MEI?

...I GUESS I SKIMPED ON THE BACK-GROUNDS TOO MUCH.

AND I KEPT GOING UNTIL IT BEGAN TO SEEM...

I... COULDN'T SAVE HER...

SATOKO WAS ERASED ...?!

GOD... WHY ARE YOU HERE?

WELL...

PEN...?

...BUT SHE WAS A *DRAWING.* ON PEN AND PAPER...

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DO THAT? YEAH, I KNOW I *CREATED* HER...

WELL, THEN... RESUR-RECT HER!

COULDN'T SAVE HER? BUT YOU'RE GOD!!

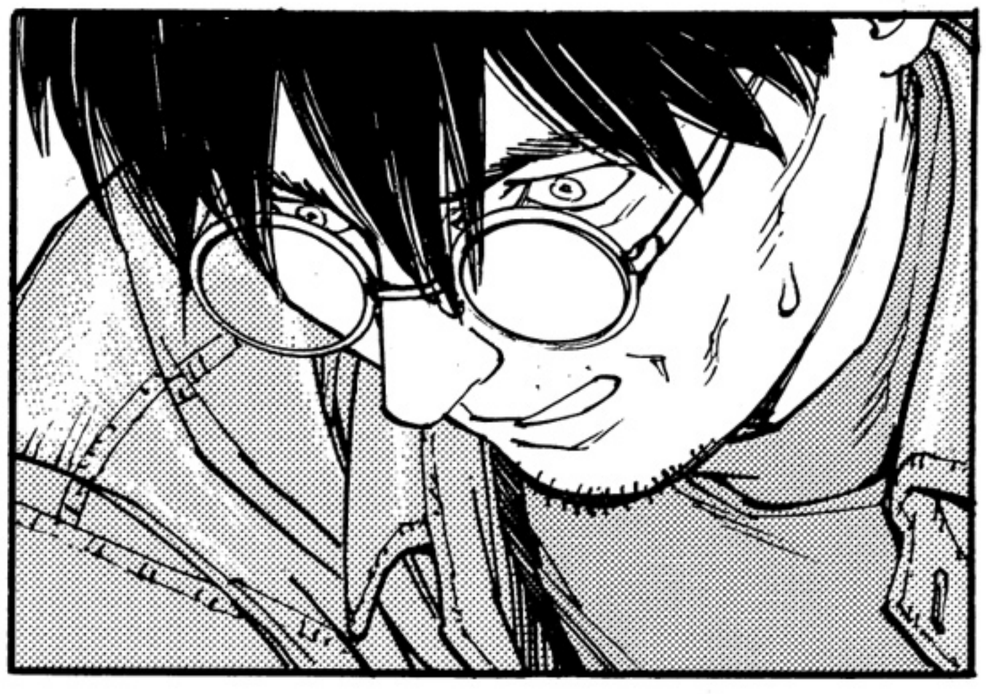
...BRING HER BACK.

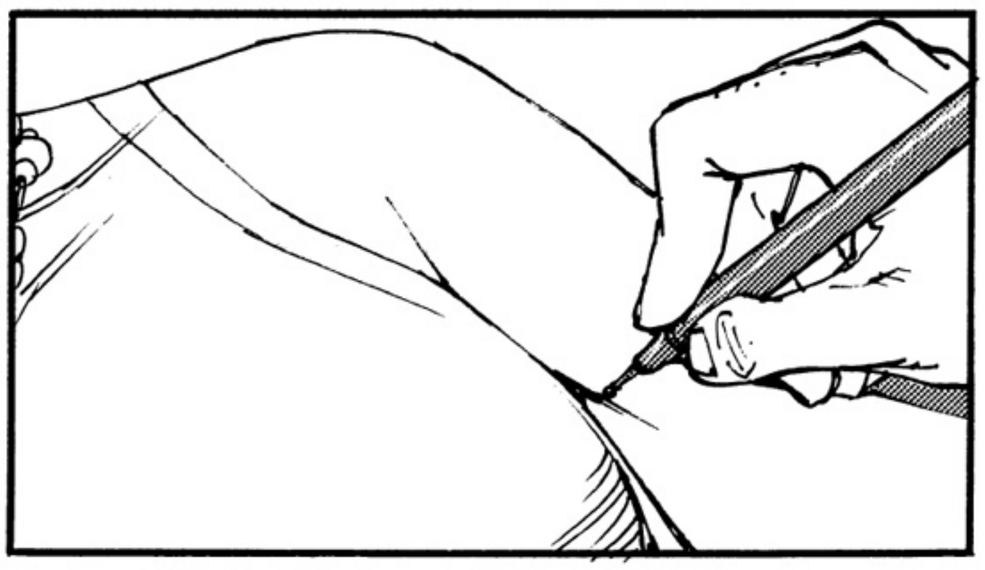
PLEASE ...

THIS IS YOURS, ISN'T IT? GOD'S PEN.

I DON'T KNOW YET...

WILL IT WORK?





YOU'RE SATOKO. ***MY SATOKO...!***

...

SO MUCH FOR THAT.

カラン
clatter

I KNOW YOU DREW HER WELL...

DON'T GIVE UP, GOD!!

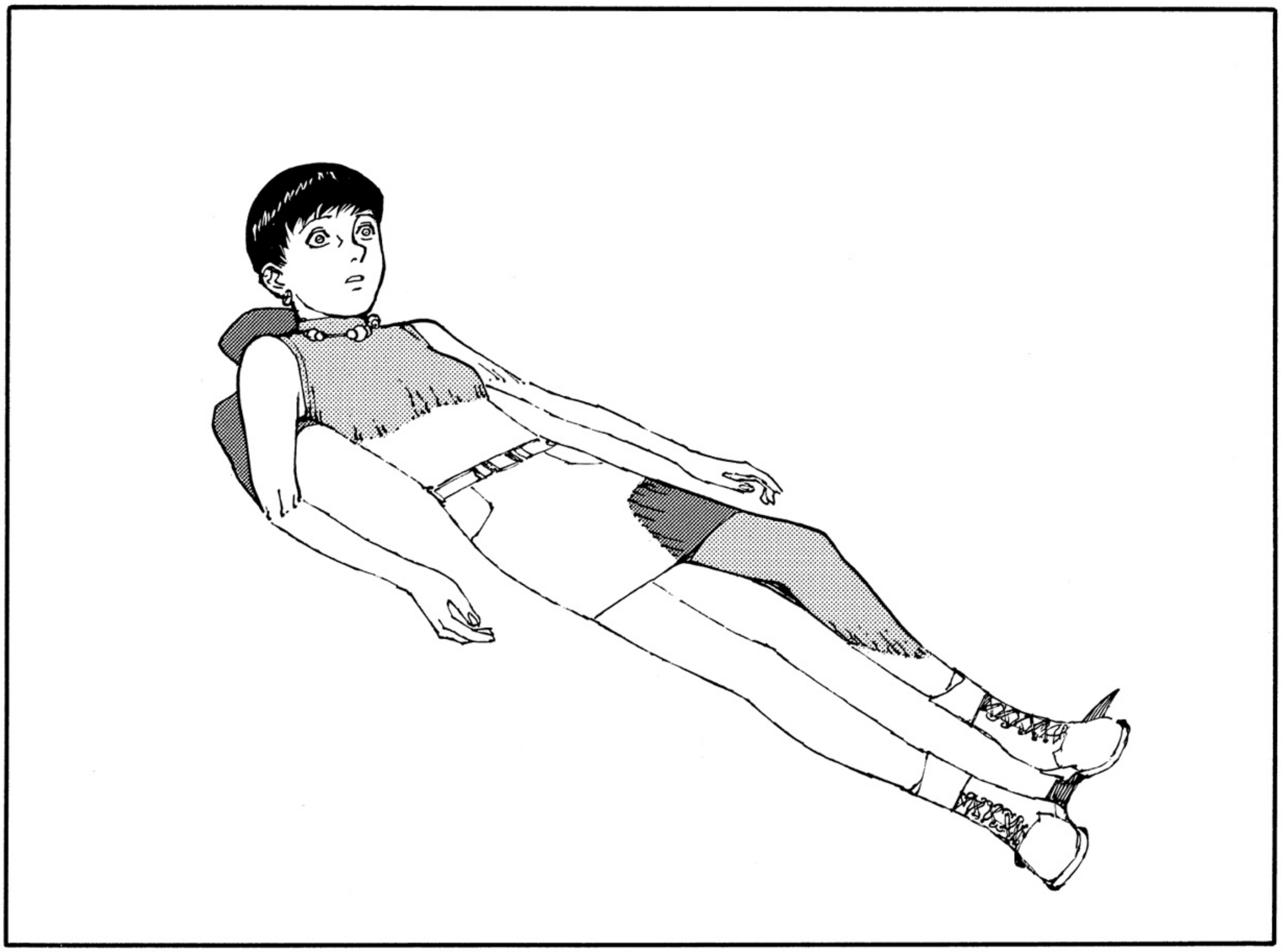
DON'T *SAY* THAT!

SHE *IS* JUST A DRAWING, AFTER ALL. OF ALL THE STUPID THINGS I'VE TRIED TO DO...

AND I'M JUST A MANGA ARTIST. DON'T CALL ME A GOD.

...BUT YOU ARE.

!




?
chapter thirteen

SATOKO ...

I'M... ME.

OOF

...YAHOO!!!

hug

GOD? MEI-CHAN ...?

UM ...

BUT...I... WAS...WHAT'S HAPPENING?

IT WORKED! IT REALLY WORKED !!

I'M SO HAPPY ...

I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN...

SEE! I *TOLD* YOU HE WAS GOD!

GOD REDREW YOU, SATOKO.

YOU'LL... MAKE YOUR GIRLFRIEND JEALOUS.

I THINK IT'S PERFECT!

OKAY... HOW'S THIS?

WELL, YEAH, BUT... WILL IT WORK?

skritch

skritch

I ONLY DREW THIS ON A NEW YEAR'S CARD BEFORE...

I'LL CALL HIM MR. DRAGON!

NOT BAD, I GUESS.

WONDERFUL! WONDERFUL! IT WORKED JUST LIKE I TOLD YOU IT WOULD!

DON'T TELL ME WE'RE GOING TO...

...GO, GO, MR. DRAGON!

AND ALSO...IF LIN STILL EXISTS.

BUT WHAT'S THE WHITE SPACE, THEN? THAT'S WHAT I'M WONDERING ...

I WONDER... DOES THIS MEAN I COULD CREATE A WHOLE NEW WORLD HERE...?

...WHEN SATOKO WAS A LITTLE GIRL...

HERE ...

MEI-CHAN SEEMS TO THINK SO...

I'M *AMAZING* ...?

...IT'S A LITTLE AWKWARD SAYING THIS TO YOUR FACE, BUT...

SINCE YOU *REALLY ARE* GOD...

SORRY.

NO...I WISH YOU HAD REDRAWN ME WITH SOME NEW CLOTHES.

CHIKARA NAGAI...

ポリポリ scratch scratch

BUT I NEVER IMAGINED THAT HE HAD A NAME.

I'VE BELIEVED IN GOD SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL...

KANAE ?

YEAH, AT FIRST. BUT SHE'S NOTHING COMPARED TO YOU ...

SO YOU MODELED ME AFTER YOUR GIRLFRIEND ...?

I GUESS IF YOU HATED THEM YOU WOULDN'T DRAW THEM.

HEH. IT'S ONLY NATURAL TO LIKE YOUR OWN CHARAC-TERS!

...UM.

WHAT?!

HEY! LOOK!!

YEAH ...

OVER THERE ...!

...WELL, WHAT ABOUT IT...?

IT'S THE CHAPTER TITLE PAGE...

RESONANCE

IT'S THE STORY FROM VOLUME ONE...!

RESONANCE

ISN'T THAT...?

STOP, MR. DRAGON.

ゴオオオ roarrrrrr

RESONANCE

....

YOU MEAN LIN?!

THAT'S WHERE BIG BROTHER IS!!

ゴオオ roarrrr

RESONANCE

CHIKARA NAGAI

UM...

MR. DRAGON! SLOW DOWN!!

MEI, TELL HIM TO SLOW DOWN!!

RESONANCE

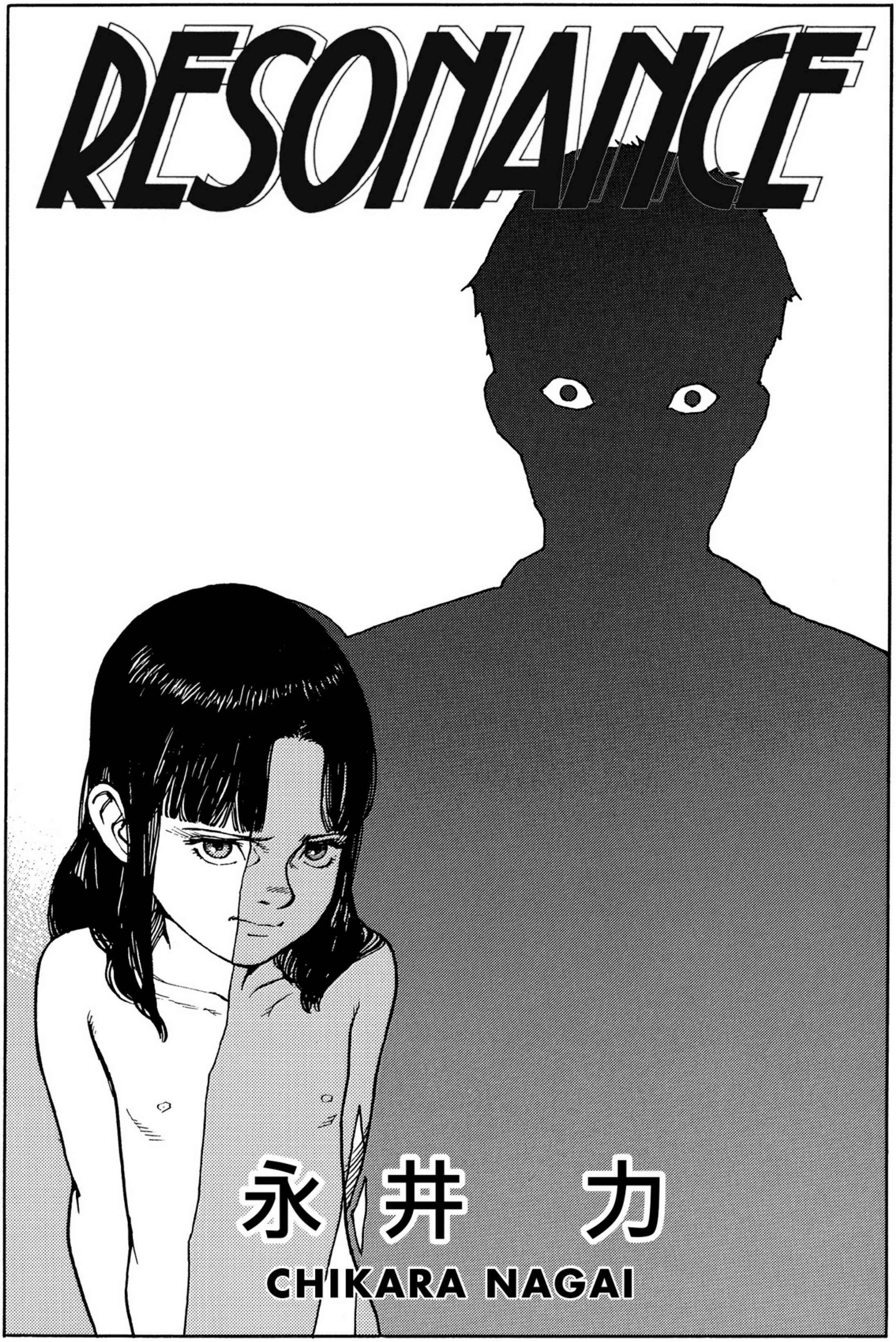
CHIKARA NAGAI

LOOK OUT!

ROARRRR

STUPID DRAGON!

RESONANCE



永井　力

CHIKARA NAGAI

KKRASSHHH

WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU HURT...?

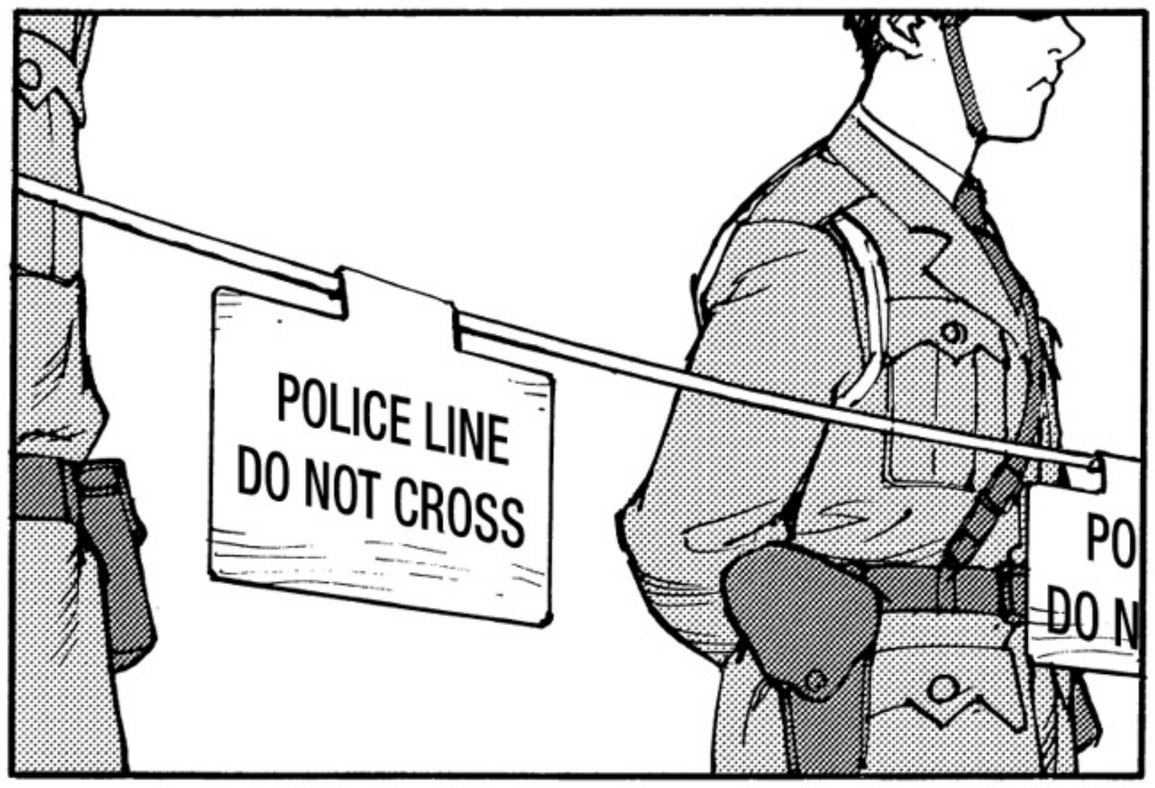
SATOKO!

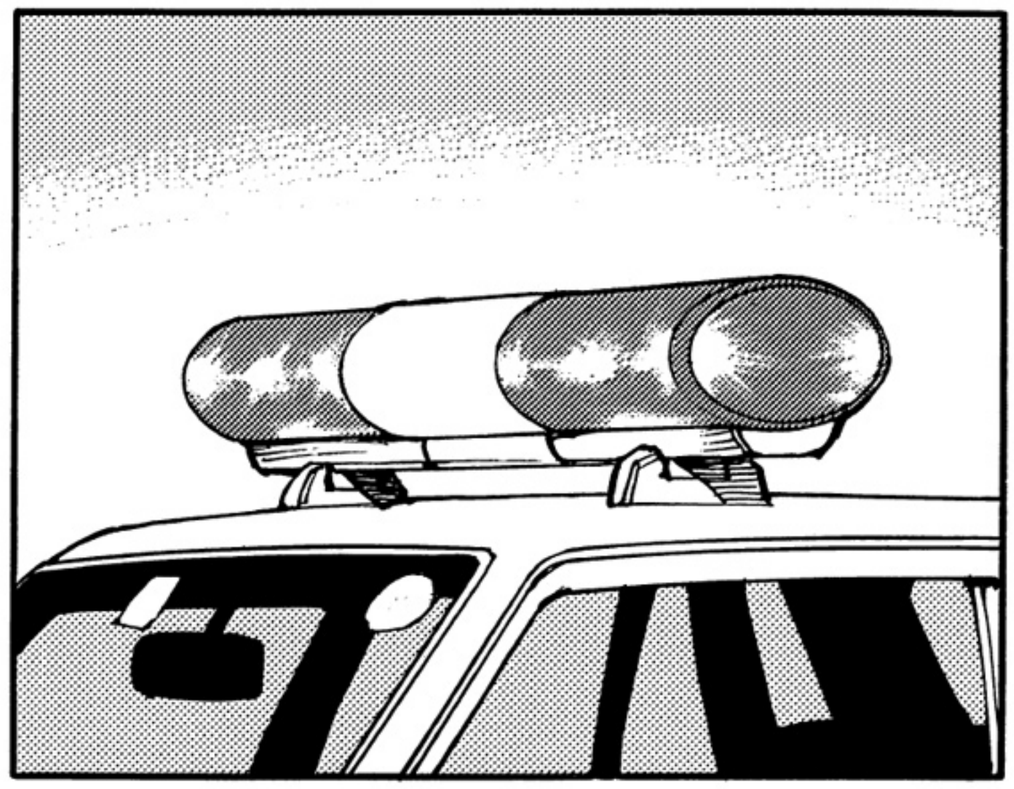
YOU ARE CUT. SHOW ME...

plip plip

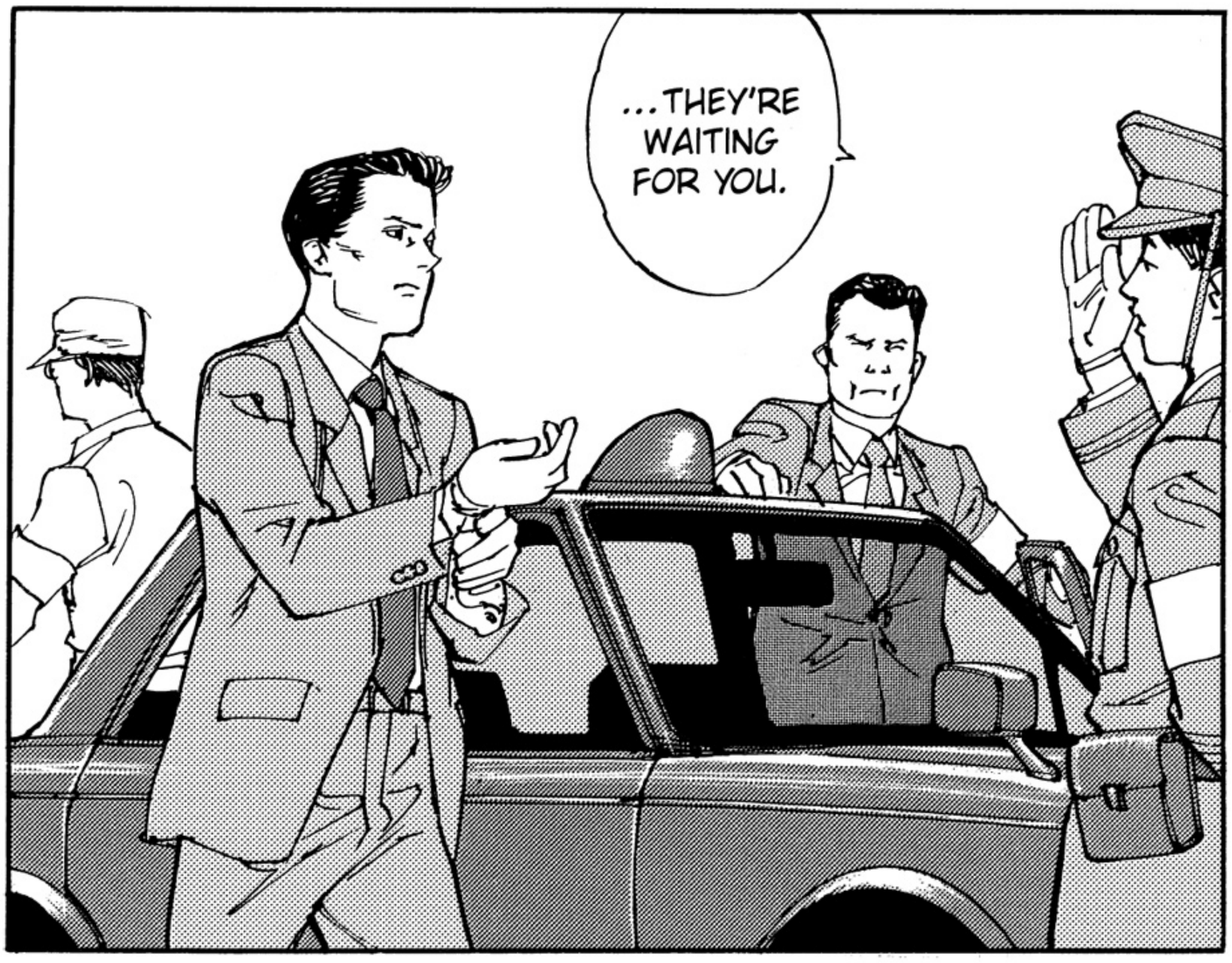
BE CAREFUL. YOU'LL CUT YOURSELF ...

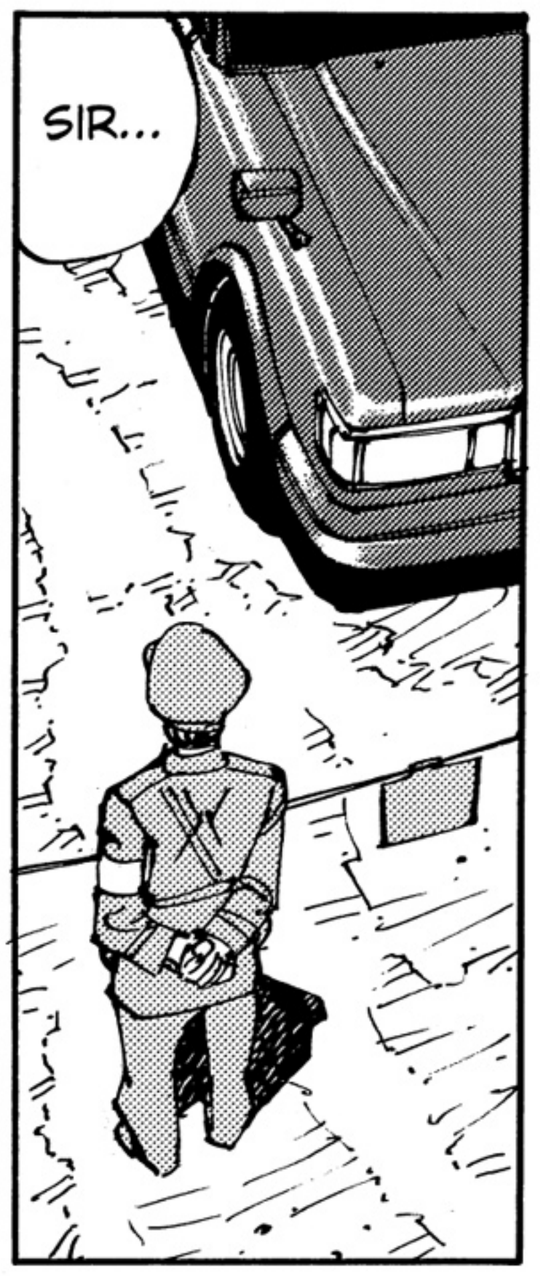
KYAA!!


POLICE LINE
DO NOT CROSS
PO
DO N






...THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU.


SIR...

I MEAN... THAT IT'S HIM.

YOU'RE SURE THEN?

SAWAMURA. YOU'RE LATE.

SAME M.O. BUT HE'S ESCALAT-ING.

YOUNG GIRL. 120 CM HEIGHT. MULTIPLE STAB WOUNDS WITH AN EDGED WEAPON.

YEAH. THIS MAKES VICTIM NUMBER FIVE.

DO YOU HAVE AN ID ON THE VICTIM ...?

AN OLD MAN OUT FOR A WALK WITH HIS DOG FOUND THE BODY AND CALLED US. WE THINK IT HAPPENED BETWEEN NINE AND ELEVEN LAST NIGHT.

SWOOSH

wshhh

!

IT'S... NOTHING.

STAY FOCUSED, OKAY?

WHAT?

Who?! Who did I just see...?!

I'VE GOT TO NOTIFY HER PARENTS...

MAKES ME SICK.

ABOUT MY DAUGHTER'S AGE.

BETTER CHECK UP ON HER...

DAMN, I NEED A CIGARETTE.

REGROUP HERE AT 1900 TO REPORT YOUR FINDINGS.

YOSHIDA AND SAWAMURA, YOU GO HERE.

TANAKA AND KOBAYASHI, CHECK THIS AREA.

HOW'D YOU KNOW? HE'S CRANKY WITHOUT A SMOKE.

FREAK.

...JUST ONE, EH? WHAT THE WIFE DOESN'T KNOW CAN'T HURT HER.

YEAH ...

GIMME YOUR THOUGHTS ON THAT APARTMENT BUILDING.

...

YOU THINK SOMEONE COULD HAVE SEEN IT FROM THERE?

COURSE... THAT DOESN'T MEAN ANYONE *DID* SEE IT.

NO ONE DOWN ON THE STREET WAS ANY HELP...

ALL RIGHT, UP TO THE APART-MENTS.

ALL RIGHT, UP TO THE APART-MENTS.

LOOK AT THIS GRAFFITI. NO RESPECT THESE DAYS.

THAT'S PROBABLY *OUR* FAULT.

LOOK! IT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE MANGA...

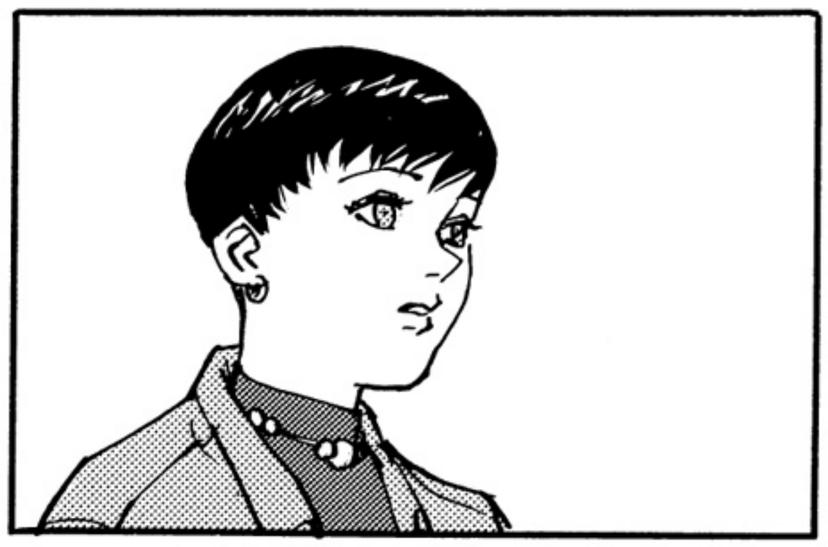
THIS ISN'T *GOOD*...

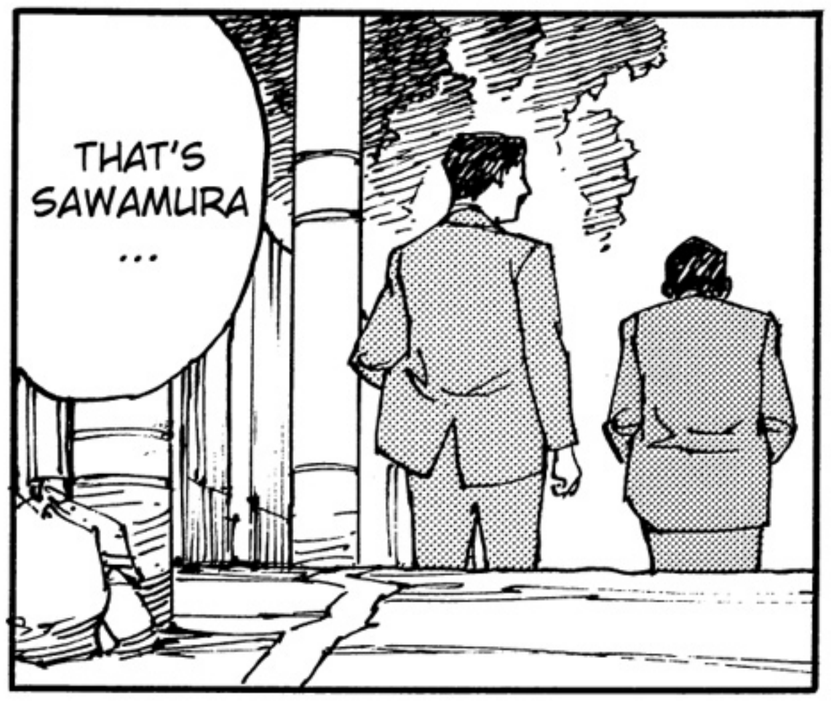
...AND IT'S ONLY *GOING* TO GET WORSE.

AVOID ANYONE WE MIGHT MEET. INTERACT WITH NO ONE.

WE NEED TO INTER-FERE AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE IN THIS WORLD.

WHY?





WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL. I'LL JUST FIX THIS CRACK HERE...

I DUNNO, A TIME PARADOX OR SOME-THING...

WHO KNOWS WHAT KIND OF INFLUENCE IT COULD HAVE, US BEING HERE? WHAT TERRIBLE THINGS COULD HAPPEN?

BECAUSE THIS IS YOUR LIFE FROM 15 YEARS AGO, SATOKO.

YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO ME...!

DO NOTHING? SIT BACK AND WATCH?

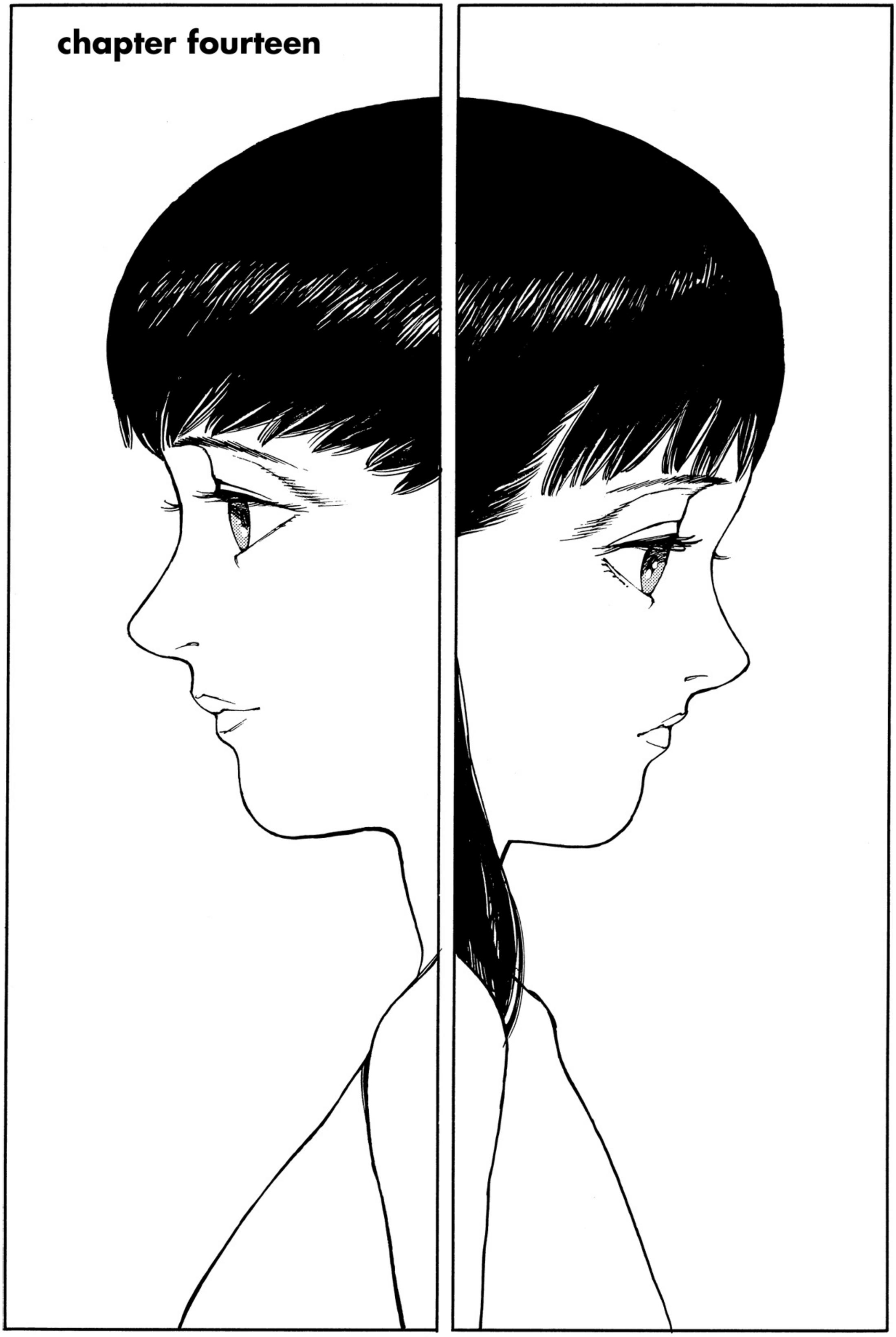
WE'LL JUST FIND LIN, GET OUT OF HERE, AND GO BACK TO WHERE WE CAME...

WAIT.

YEAH. OR SOMETHING BAD COULD HAPPEN.

HUH?

chapter fourteen



POLICE, MA'AM. CAN WE ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS?

ding dong

chak

...IS...IS IT THAT SERIAL KILLER?

I WISH I HAD, BUT...

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL. IF YOU SAW ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS, IT MIGHT HELP.

YES, MA'AM. LAST NIGHT BETWEEN 9 AND 11, IN THE WOODS...

EH?! A MURDER ...?

OH, SATOKO. YOU'RE UP...?

THAT'S TERRIBLE. I...

WOW. IT'S LIKE I'M ON A POLICE DRAMA.

IS THAT... YOUR DAUGHTER ?

...

WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF I SPOKE WITH HER, MA'AM?

The girl I saw from below ...

klak

YES, OF COURSE. COME ON IN...

YES, BUT SHE'S GETTING OVER THE FEVER...

SHE'S SICK? THAT'S BEEN GOING AROUND.

THEY'RE LOOKING FOR A MAN WHO DID SOMETHING BAD... SEARCHING FOR CLUES...

SATOKO? THESE MEN ARE WITH THE POLICE. THEY HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU...

I can't read her mind. It's like she's in some sort of shell.

...

DID YOU SEE ANYTHING STRANGE ...?

SATOKO... LAST NIGHT SOMETHING HAPPENED IN THE FOREST OUT BACK.

MURDERED? SHE... DIED?

Does she mean the murdered girl...?

WHO WAS... THAT GIRL?

SATOKO-CHAN...!

SATOKO-CHAN.

CAN YOU HEAR WHAT I'M THINKING RIGHT NOW?

...I DIDN'T MEAN TO SHOUT... BUT DID YOU SEE ANYTHING ...?

I-I'M SORRY ...

WHAT'S WRONG ...?

WILL I BE KILLED TOO ...?

!

chok

AGHH!

SIR, ARE YOU OKAY ...?!

SAWAMURA ...?!

hahh

hahh

thud

I'M SCARED...

ARE YOU SENDING ME THE VISIONS...?!

THE FIRST PERSON I'VE MET LIKE MYSELF.

THE SAME?

DON'T WORRY. I'LL PROTECT YOU. WE'RE THE SAME.

THERE'S SOME SORT OF RESONANCE WITH HER CONSCIOUS-NESS...AT THE MOMENT OF THE MURDER.

THERE'S NO MISTAKE. SATOKO IS THE VICTIM.

1012

TOSHIKO MIURA
SATOKO MIURA

THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERA-TION.

WEIRDER THAN YOU THINK...

I EXPECT YOU TO BE WEIRD, SAWAMURA... BUT THAT WAS SOME ACT YOU PUT ON IN THERE.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT...

YEAH.

BUT YOU SAY LIN IS THAT GUY'S *REINCARNATION...?*

WELL... SAWAMURA *HAS* TO DIE...

YES. PROTECTING ME.

...HE DIES, DOESN'T HE?

BUT...

...LOOK AT THIS.

WE NEED TO CATCH HIM BEFORE HE DESTROYS HIMSELF. AND EVERYTHING.

YEAH.

...OR LIN WILL NEVER EXIST.

YOU'VE BEEN STRANGE SINCE LAST NIGHT ...

COME ON NOW, SATOKO. YOU'VE STILL GOT THAT FEVER, HAVEN'T YOU...? I'M TAKING YOU TO THE HOSPITAL.

THIS IS THE SCENE WHERE I SAW LIN.

...E'S SOME SORT OF RESONANCE WITH HER CONSCIOUS-NESS...AT THE MOMENT OF THE MURDER.

THERE'S NO MISTAKE. SATOKO IS THE VICTIM.

YOU'VE BEEN STRANGE SINCE LAST NIGHT ...

COME ON NOW, SATOKO. YOU'VE STILL GOT THAT FEVER, HAVEN'T YOU...? I'M TAKING YOU TO THE HOSPITAL.

I REMEMBER THIS...

RESONANCE

ISN'T THAT... SATOKO-CHAN...?

SATOKO... DON'T.

I...

YOU SHOULDN'T SEE THIS.

LET'S GO.

I KNOW...

tmp

SATOKO, WAIT!!

...HEY!

...DAMN IT!!

shangg

ガーン

chinggg

ガコン

...HERE I AM.

I FEEL LIKE WE'VE MET BEFORE. DO YOU LIVE IN THESE APARTMENTS?

...N-NO. JUST VISITING A FRIEND.

UM...

...HELLO!!

OH, WHO? YOSHIHARA? IN THE CORNER UNIT?

MY MOTHER SURE WAS INQUISITIVE.

OH, THIS IS HER. SATOKO IS MY DAUGHTER.

SHE HAS A FEVER, SO WE'RE GOING TO THE HOSPITAL.

OR THAT GUY I SAW YOU WITH EARLIER?

SORRY, I GUESS I'M BEING NOSY...

...SATOKO'S ALWAYS TELLING ME THAT.

...

S-SATOKO-CHAN...?

DON'T BE SCARED OF THE DOCTOR, OKAY...? IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

I TOLD HER NOT TO INTER-FERE...!

bam bam bam ダダダ

bam bam bam ダダダ

SHE SEEMED NICE. I HOPE SATOKO GROWS UP TO BE LIKE THAT.

...TAKE CARE, SATOKO-CHAN.

I...

HUH?

MOM...

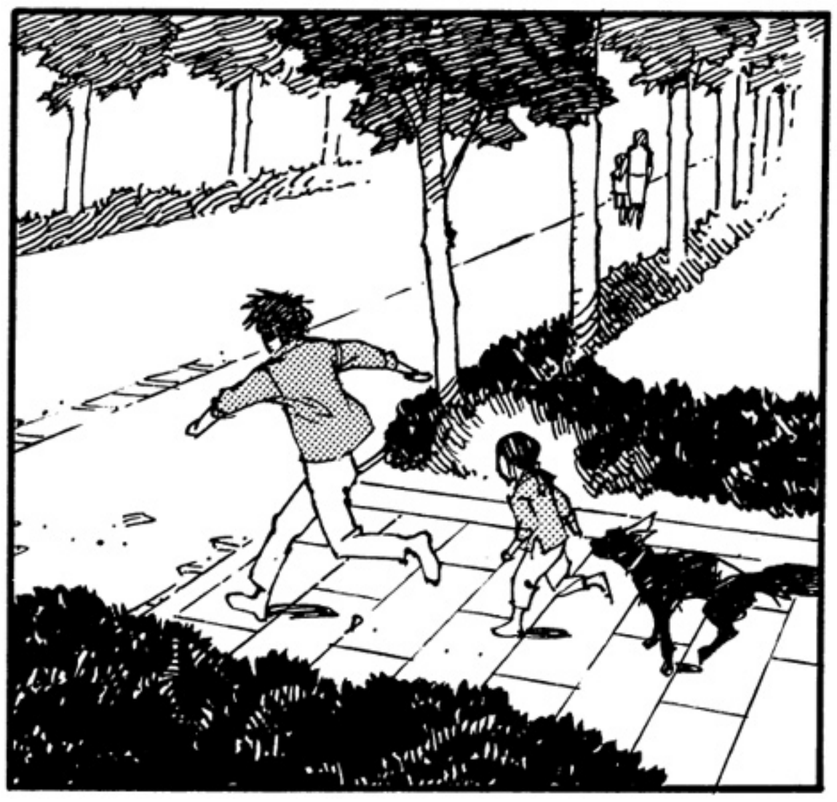
SATOKO!

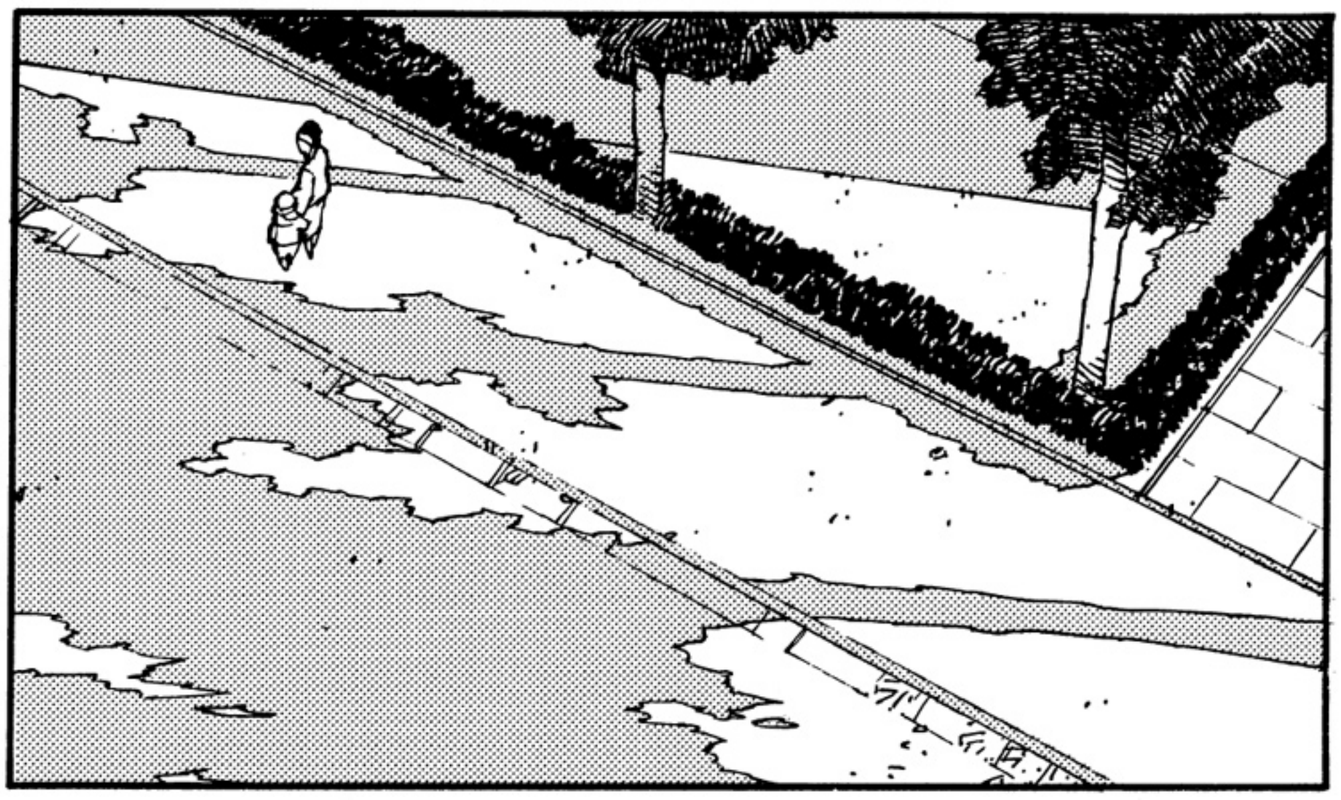
SATOKO.

krakkkk

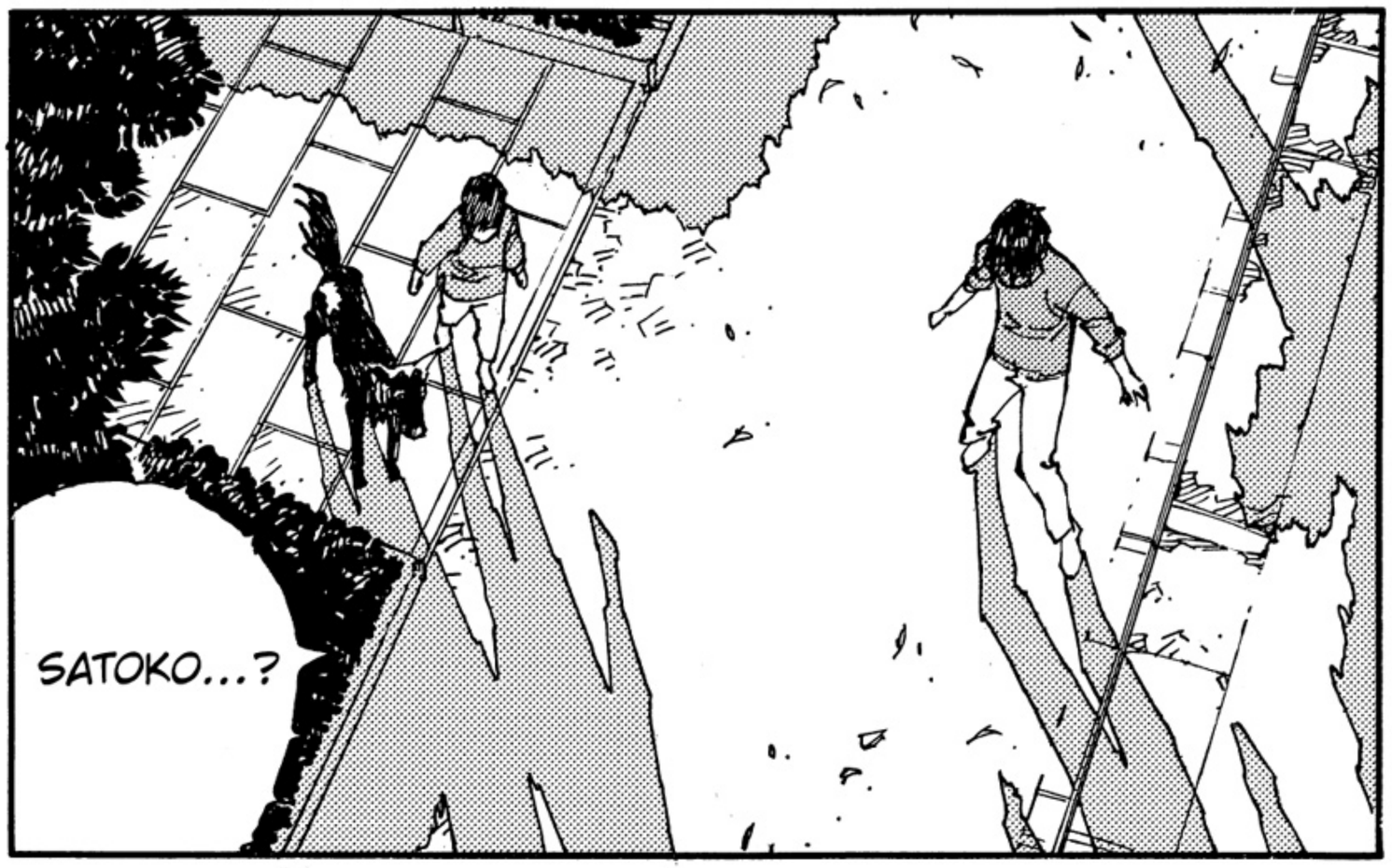

RESONANCE
OPUS


ROARRRRRR
chapter
fifteen








SATOKO...?

WHAT DID YOU DO...?!

HELP ME...!

WHAT THE...?!

DOWN THERE ...

...!

...IT'S VOLUME TWO!!

YEAH. WHEN YOU LIVED AT THE TENNIS CLUB...

WOW.

...I'M SORRY.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WILL HAPPEN...

YOU'RE WEAKENING THIS...THIS WORLD!!

...LOOK, I WARNED YOU!

I KNOW.

...WE DON'T NEED TO OPEN ANY MORE.

THIS STORY'S ALREADY FULL OF HOLES...

ガーン gasp

...IT'LL TEAR IT ALL APART!

IF LIN'S PLAN IS TO SAVE SAWAMURA ...

BUT LIN...

LIN, WHERE ARE YOU?!

OW!!

...WELL, YOU'RE STILL NOT GONNA STOP ME.

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE WITH SATOKO... AND THAT IDIOT?!

IS THAT YOU, MEI...?

flapp

...I ALREADY *KNOW* WHAT'S IN STORE IF I DO NOTHING.

HOW CAN YOU BE SURE? AND ANYWAY...

... PARADOX? AW, FUCK THAT!

ANOTHER VICTIM'S BEEN REPORTED ...?!

I REMEMBER FROM MY PAST LIFE...THAT THIS IS THE SHOWDOWN.

AND HERE I AM.

MY CHANCE TO UNDO THE MASQUE.

WATCH OUT, KID...

ULP ...!

THIS WAY, SIR.

NO. NO!

NO.

krashh

ARE YOU OKAY, SON...?

OWW...

...

IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

...WHY ARE WE JUST DRIVING AROUND ...?

SO...

...A BUILDING I DREW MYSELF.

I'M LOOKING FOR SOMETHING SOLID, SOMETHING REALISTIC ...

EH? *WHAT?*

...I DREW ALL OF THIS IN A HURRY, WITH NO REFERENCES.

WELL, HERE'S THE FACT OF THE MATTER ...

EXCEPT... TRUTH IS, HE ONLY DID THE ROUGHS. LEFT THE DETAILS TO HIS FREELANCERS.

TAKE [redacted] BY [redacted]. PRETTY FAMOUS MANGA, RIGHT?

WELL, YEAH. IT'S NOT EXACTLY HERESY.

GOD HAS ***ASSISTANTS*** *...?!*

...I REMEMBER.

IF IT'S LIKE WHAT YOU DREW...THE KILLER SHOULD BE WITH HIS NEXT VICTIM NOW...

RESONANCE

GO STRAIGHT, I THINK... WE'RE HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

YOU FIND ANY HINTS IN THERE...?

EXACTLY. AND THAT'S WHERE WE'LL FIND LIN.

BUT... LOOK AT THIS!

CAN WE EVEN STOP LIN? HE'S SO POWERFUL ...

TO "SAVE THE WORLD"...WE HAVE TO PROTECT THAT MONSTER.

HOW'D IT COME TO THIS ...?

smack

WE...

WHAT'S THE PLAN ...?

HEH. WITH GOD ON YOUR SIDE...

LOOK, IT'S A STORY, OKAY? BUT I'M THE CREATOR! HAVE FAITH IN ME!

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW THIS IS GOING TO END?!

THAT'S WHAT'S MADE THIS WORLD SUCH A HORRIBLE MESS, GOD!!

...ARE GOING TO WING IT!!

...ANYONE BUT HIM.

IT CAN'T BE...

I saw you in my vision... but you were still alive.

What did you see...?

THIS MAKES NUMBER SIX. HE'S KILLING THEM FASTER NOW...

WHAT IS IT, OFFICER ...?

THERE'S AN INVESTIGATION GOING ON...

PLEASE USE AN ALTERNATE ROUTE.

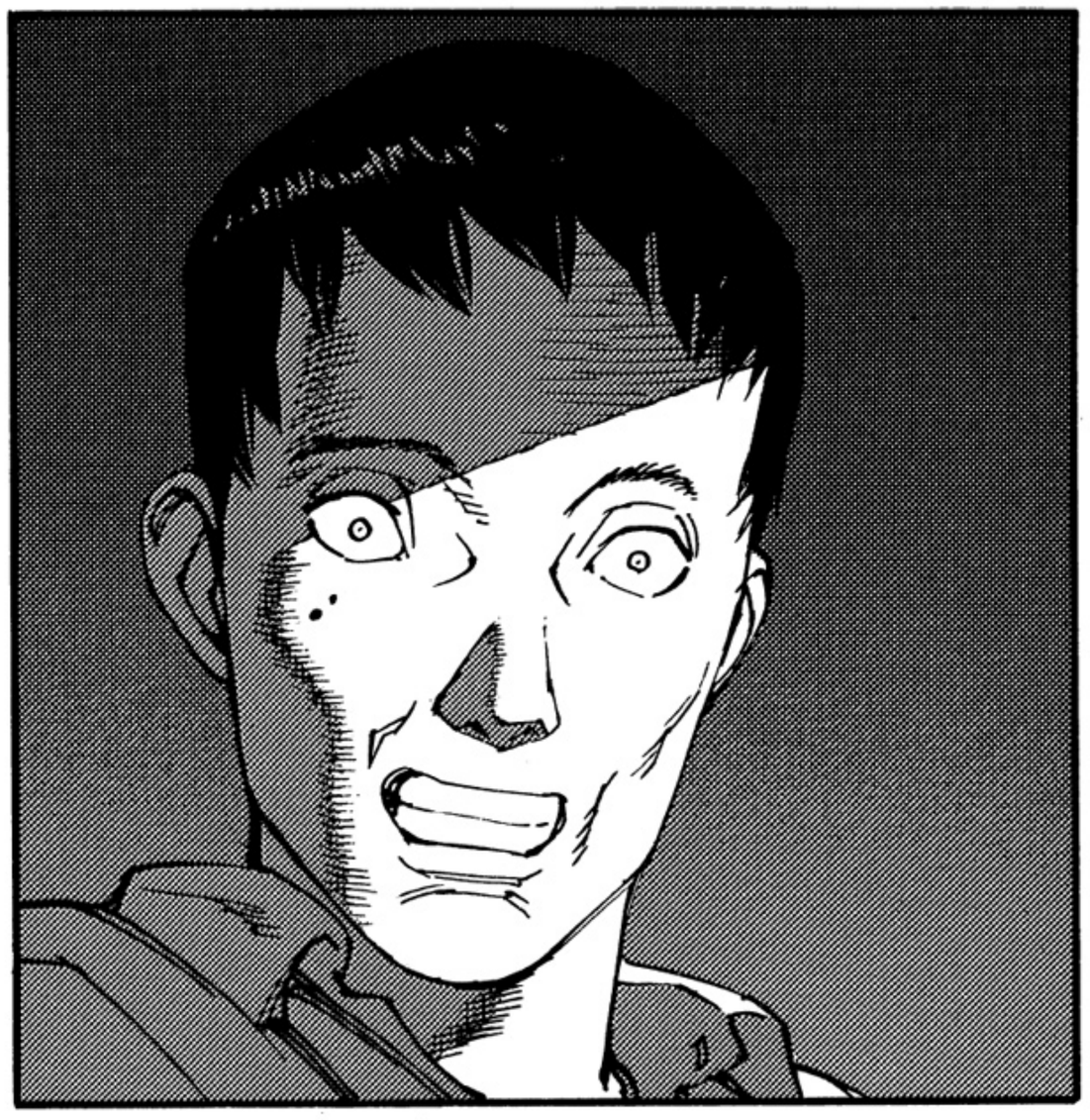
SORRY. WE'RE CLOSED TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.

THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE PERPETRATOR. LOOK OUT FOR ANYTHING THAT MIGHT IDENTIFY HIM...

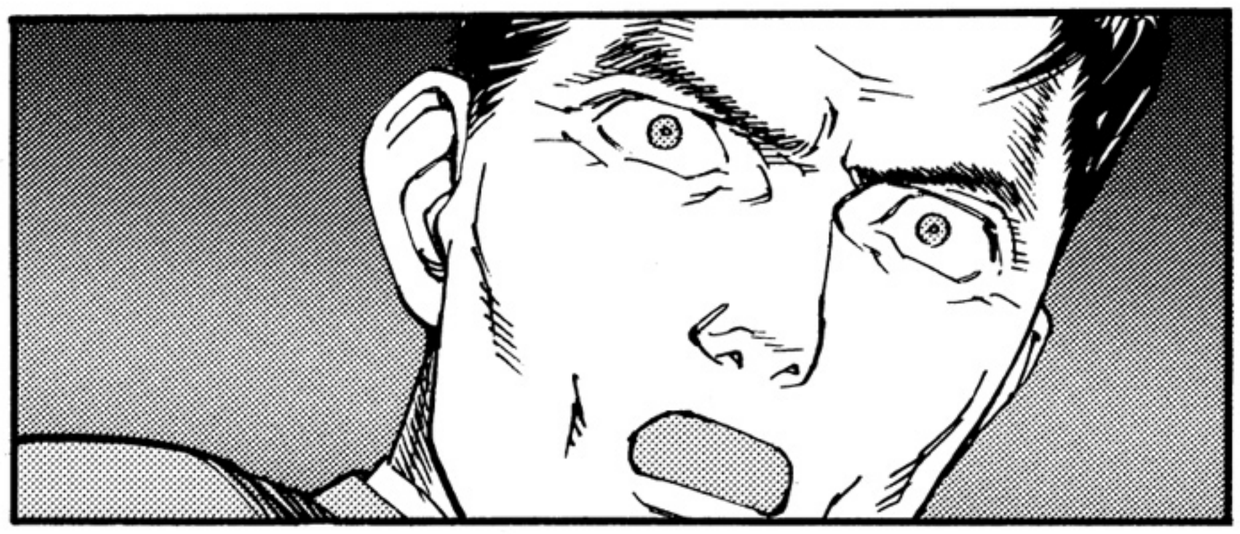
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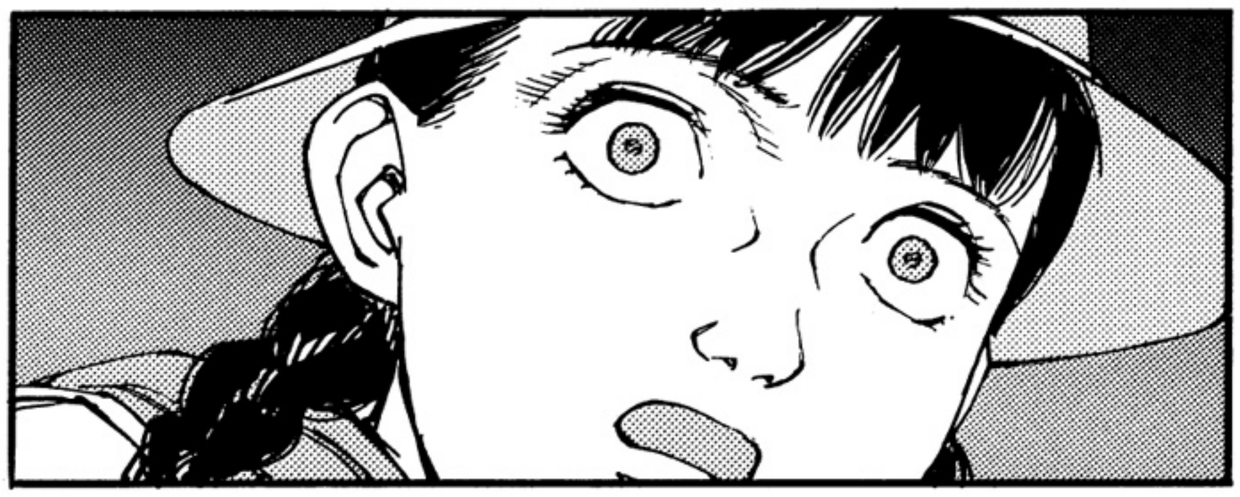
...SATOKO-CHAN.



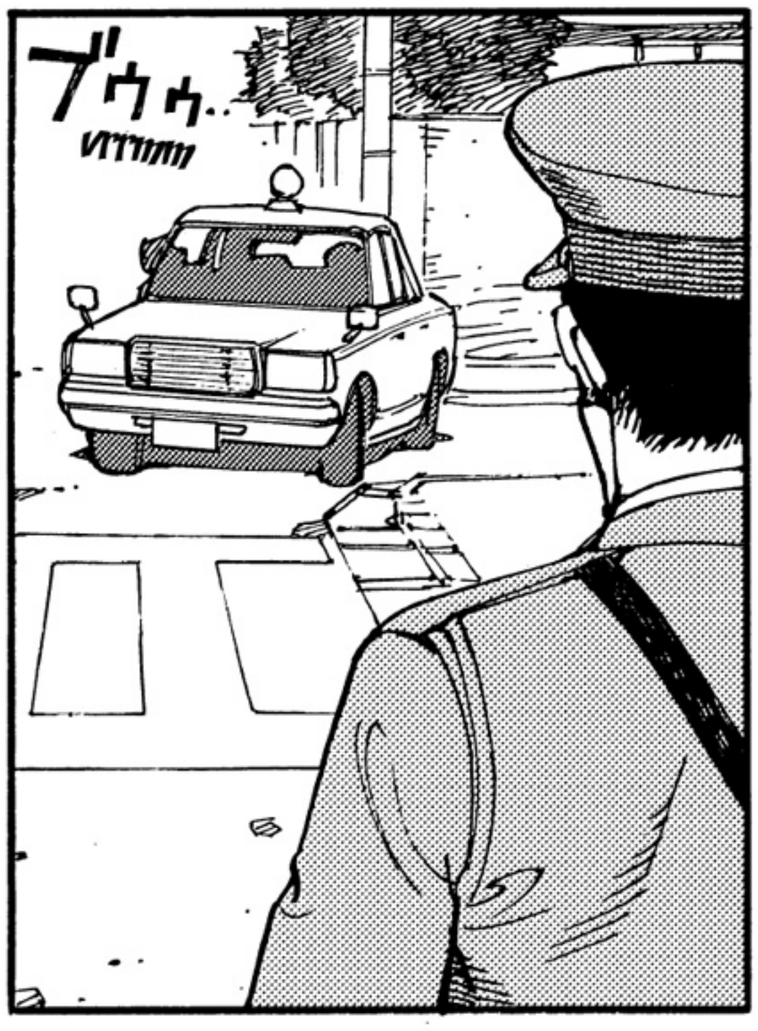



HEY...!
ダッ
tmp






haa
hahh


ブゥゥ..
vrrrrrr


IT CAN'T BE... BUT...

ブオオ
rrrrrrrrrr
...WAIT ...
HEY...
...!
...
HAVE I MET HIM BEFORE ...?
CAN I HELP YOU, SIR...?
NO WAY...
...NO.

shoom

THE COP'S THE KILLER...

thmp

YOUR TIME.

IT'S TIME.

BUT I NEED YOU GONE. YOU'VE BECOME A REAL PAIN IN THE ASS.

YOU WON'T KNOW WHY I'M HERE.

chapter sixteen

OH, WAY MORE THAN THAT.

ANOTHER TELEPATH ...?

WHO'S THIS PUNK ...?

I WANT TO GET THIS OVER WITH.

NOW JUST DIE WITHOUT ANY FUSS, OKAY...?

RIGHT AROUND HERE? SO SCARY...

THEY SAY IT WAS THAT SERIAL KILLER...

!!

GOTTA BE CAREFUL THESE DAYS...

YEAH ...

...?

kraaakkk

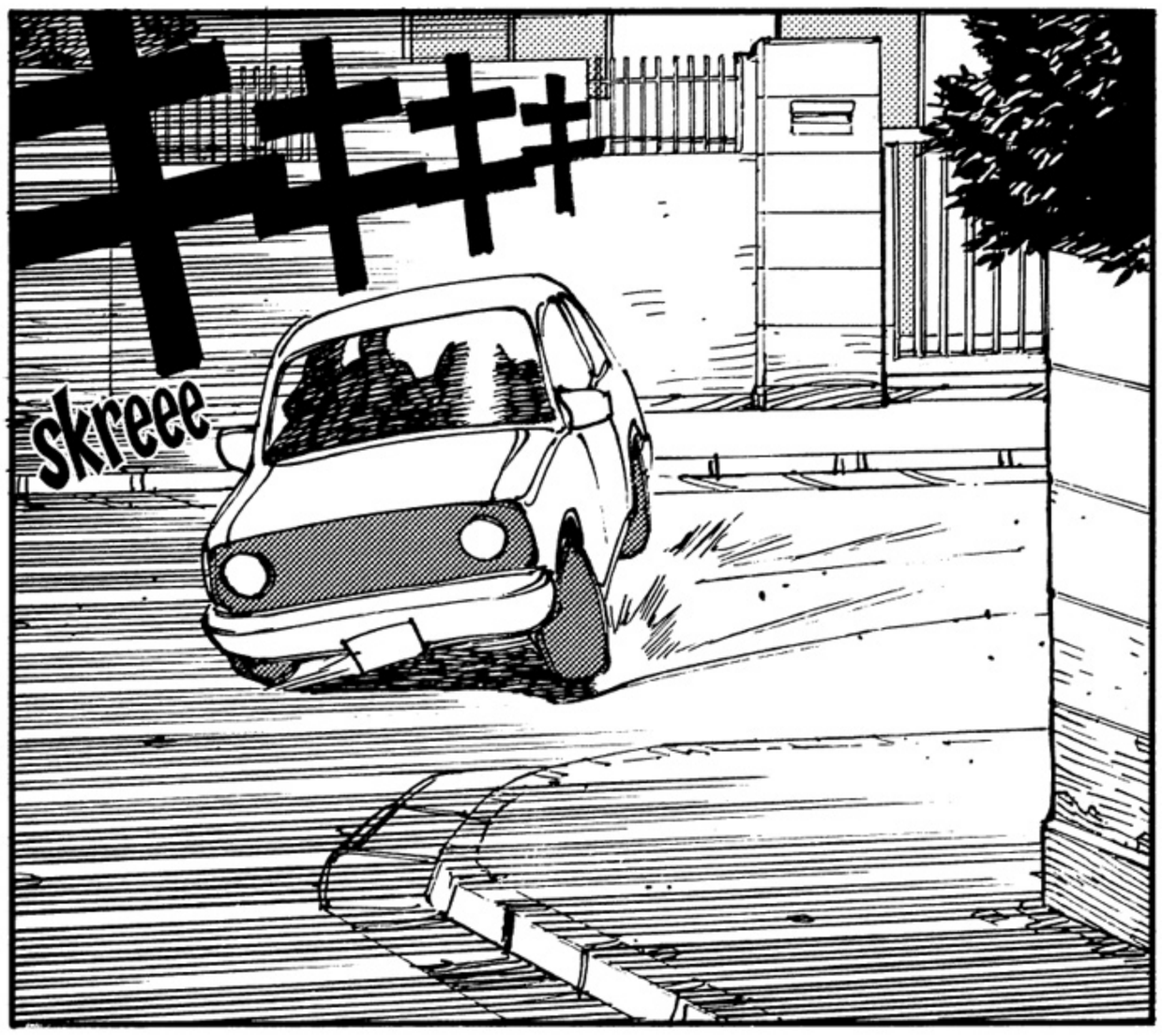
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roarrrr

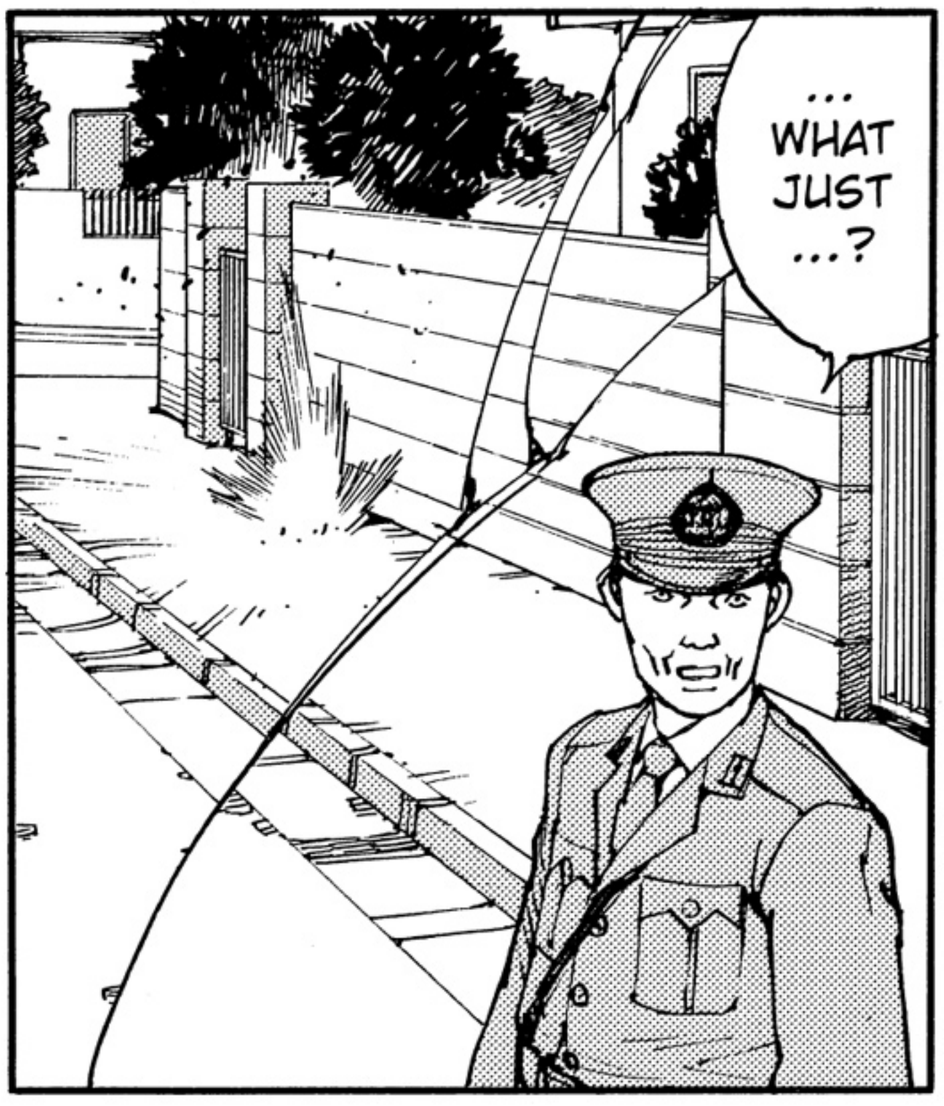
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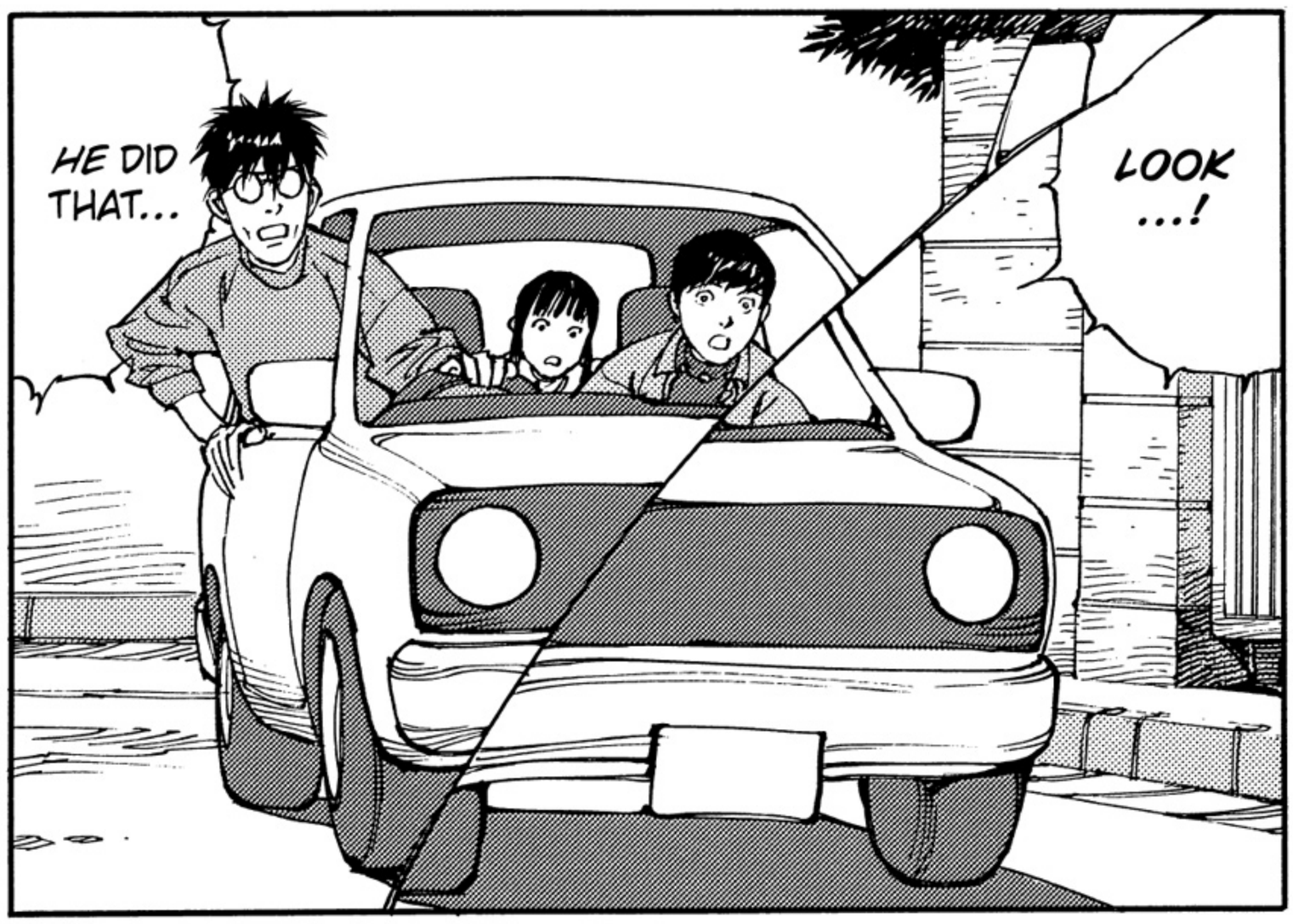
...?!

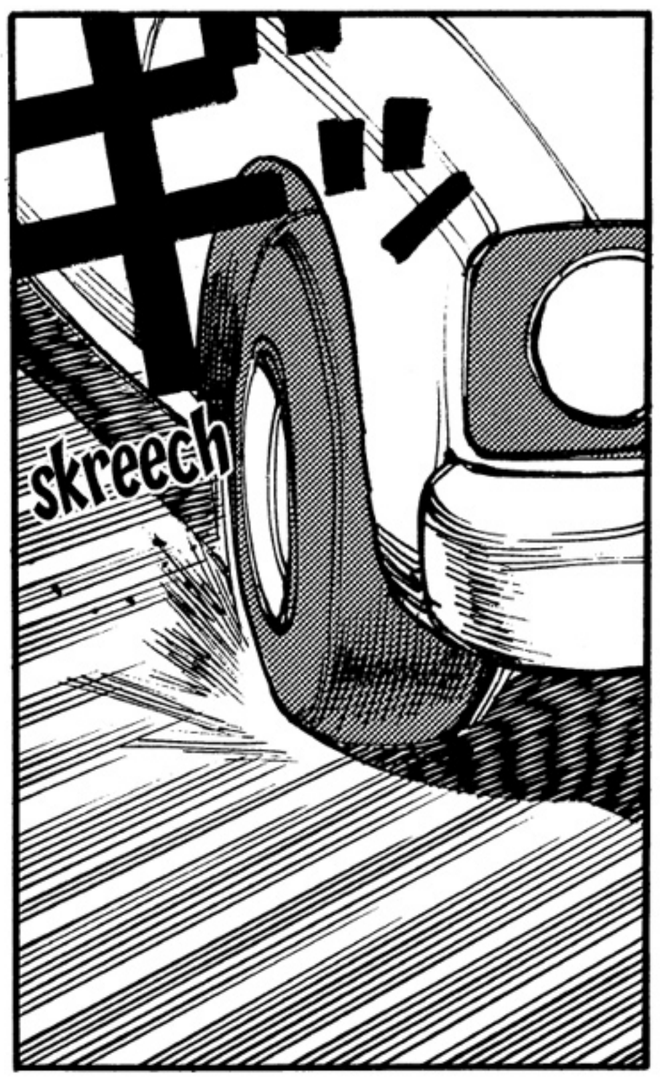
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT...?

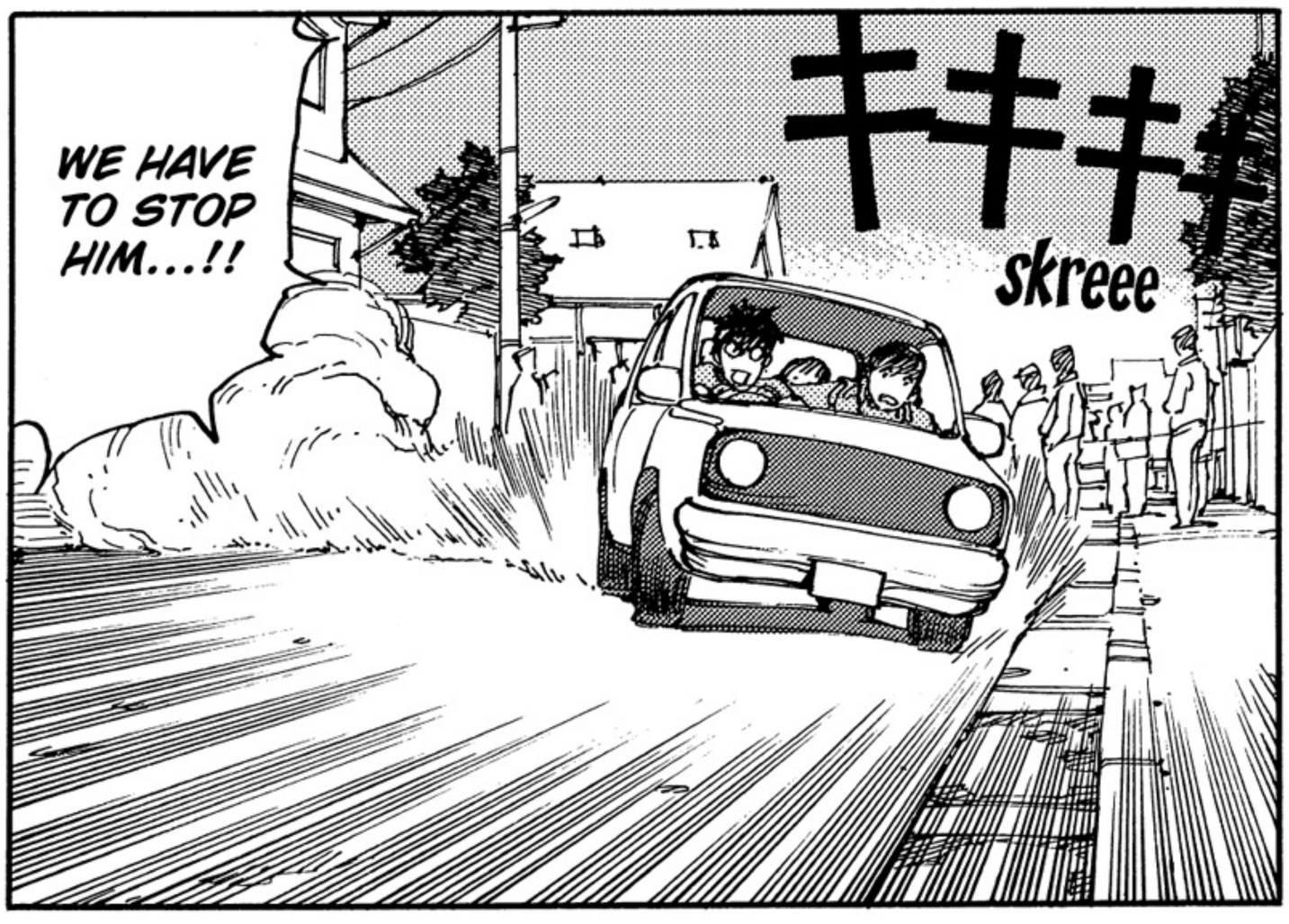
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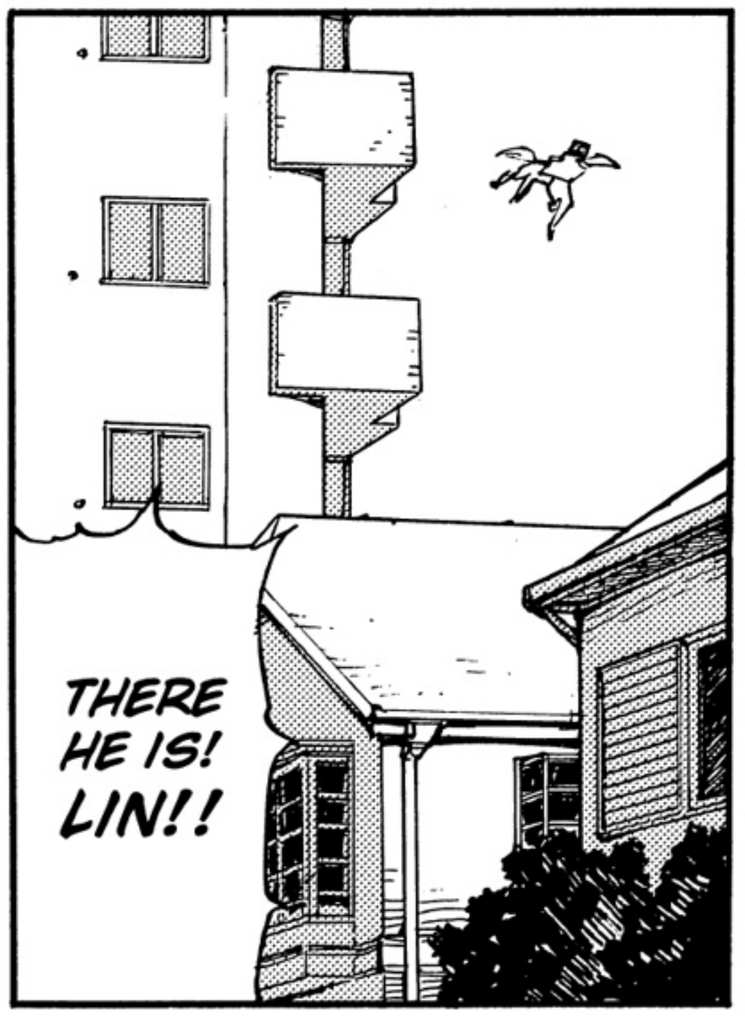

Skreee


...
WHAT
JUST
...?


HE DID
THAT...
LOOK
...!


skreech


WE HAVE
TO STOP
HIM...!!
skreee


THERE
HE IS!
LIN!!

krakk

hahh

hahh

hahh

krakk

URGH
!

ビーン

...HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE STALKED YOURSELF ...?

YOU GET OFF ON KILLING INNOCENT GIRLS...

WHAT... IS THIS, ANYWAY ...?

krakk

AGGHH
!

AAAA !!

fwam fwam

AM I DREAM-ING?!

WHO IS THAT KID...?!

thudd

BOOM

...I CAN'T BELIEVE *THIS* PATHETIC LOSER BECOMES THE MASQUE.

HA!

WELL, OKAY THEN...

fwoom

...DIE!!

whshh

WHAMMM

WHA ...?!

splash

WHAT ...?!

...WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN TO YOU?!

IDIOT! IF YOU KILL HIM...

...hahhh!!

IS HE HURT ...?!

LIN, YOU'VE GOT TO STOP!!

thmp

EXCEPT HE NEVER WILL, BECAUSE I'M GOING TO...

THIS SORRY CREEP IS THE ASSHOLE WHO BECOMES THE MASQUE ...!

IS HE HURT? HAS HE BRAIN-WASHED YOU ALL ...?!

YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST...

STOP ...!

TRUST GOD, BIG BROTHER ...!!

THIS IS ABOUT MY FUTURE, NOT THE PAST!

WAIT!

...FUCK YOU ALL!!

LIN...

LISTEN TO ME, LIN...!

thump

ドン

AND I TRIED TO SAVE YOU...

AND THEN YOU'LL DESTROY YOURSELF ANYWAY ...!

IF YOU KILL HIM, THE STORY SHATTERS COMPLETELY ...!

YOU SAW THEM, RIGHT?! THE CRACKS IN THE WORLD...!

I'M NOT SOME GEAR IN YOUR GRAND FINALE!!

IMPORT-ANT? ASSHOLE, YOU WOULDN'T EVEN LET ME HAVE MY LIFE!!

YOU'RE IMPORTANT TO ME...!

COME BACK, LIN! RESONANCE CAN'T EXIST WITHOUT YOU...!

...!

...SO I GET TO LIVE...

THERE'LL NEVER BE A MASQUE ...

tonk トン

tonk トン

fwashh

...AAAA !!

...SHIT!


ビリ
rrrrrriippppp

YOU...

ズニャーズニャーズニャーズ

rrrippp rrrippp rrrippp

BUT...
BUT...

flap flap

SO? IS THAT ENOUGH ...?

...YOU'LL JUST DRAW IT AGAIN...

YOU... YOU...

WRONG OF ME...TO PLAY WITH YOUR LIFE LIKE THAT.

...I'M SORRY... I WAS WRONG.

HE IS DECEIVING YOU, BOY.

GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT.

ブオオオ VROOOM

?!

THIS MAN DECIDES IF WE LIVE OR DIE, UPON A WHIM.

LOOK AT HIM.

IN THE END, I WILL HAVE CONTROL.

BUT I REFUSE TO BE A CHARACTER IN HIS STORY.

HOW ...?!

BASTARD! WHAT DO YOU WANT...?!

chapter seventeen

VRRRRRRRM

vrrrrrrrm

vroooom

WAS THAT REALLY THE MASQUE?!

BUT HOW COULD HE BE HERE ...?!

SHUT UP, WILL YOU?!

JUST LET ME FINISH WHAT I STARTED... AND KILL HIM!!

...YOU ARE A LIAR.

HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING...

HUH?! BUT I DIDN'T--!

LIN--

LIN...!

flash

IF THAT *WAS* THE MASQUE... WHAT IS HE PLANNING ...?!

clap clap clap clap clap clap clap

thmmm

clap clap clap clap

chik カチッ

Sawa Proton Piano School Seasonal Concert

HE HAS TO SHOW UP SOON...

UM...IF HE KNOWS WHO THE KILLER IS, WHY CAN'T THE DETECTIVE JUST ARREST HIM?

IT'S NOW OR NEVER.

...EVEN WITH LIN DISRUPTING THINGS, THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENS IN THE MANGA.

BUT HE WON'T SUCCEED.

SAWAMURA'S CIRCLING AROUND THE KILLER NOW, BUT THE KILLER'S STILL ONE STEP AHEAD. EVEN IF SAWAMURA'S WATCHING OVER SATOKO...HE'S NOT GOING TO STOP.

GOOD QUESTION! BECAUSE NO ONE KNOWS HE'S A PSYCHIC, RIGHT? HIS BUDDIES JUST THINK HE'S KIND OF OUT THERE...GETS THESE WEIRD HUNCHES.

"I READ HIS MIND" WON'T HOLD UP IN COURT.

THIS REALLY ISN'T A GOOD CONVERSA-TION FOR ME.

EVEN WITH PSYCHIC POWERS IN THE MIX, YOU STILL HAVE TO KEEP THINGS REALISTIC. IT HAS TO BE ABOUT THE HUMAN ELEMENTS--

SEE, THAT'S HOW YOU KEEP THE TENSION GOING!

...SORRY.

HE'S HERE.

tmp

tmp

skritch

!

YOU...

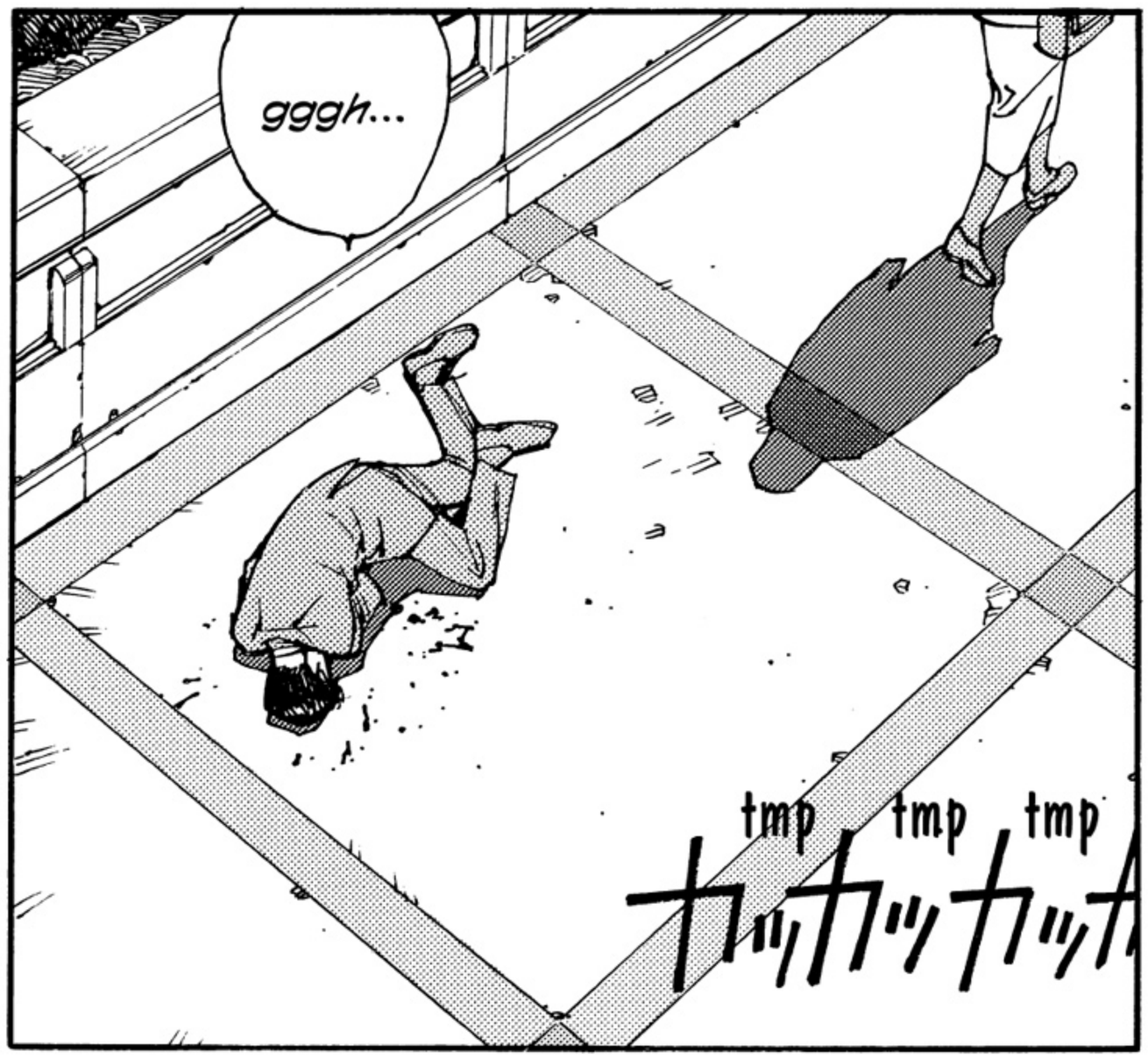
AND I'LL HAVE YOUR GUN, TOO.

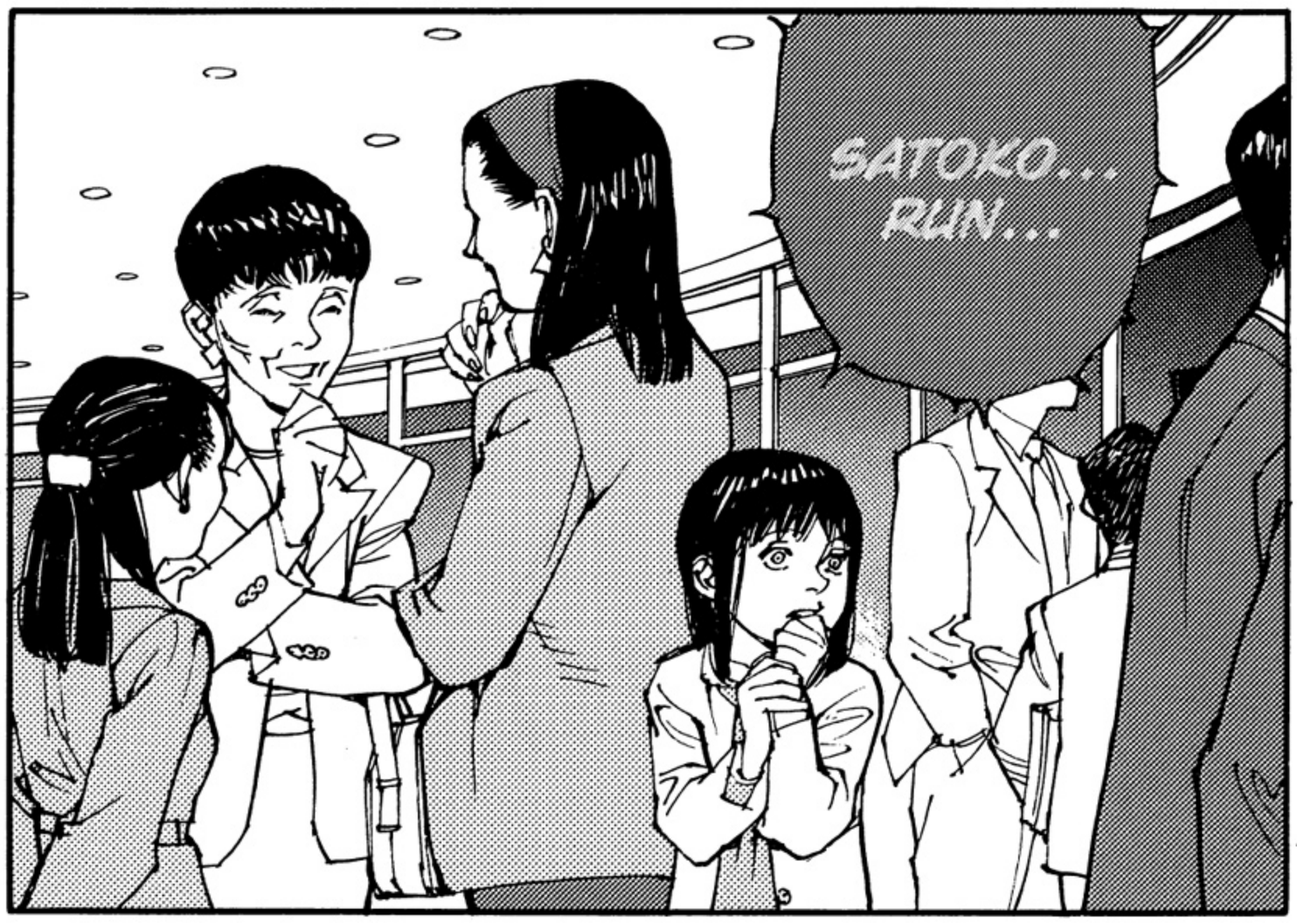
SEE. YOU'RE NOT AS SPECIAL AS YOU THOUGHT.

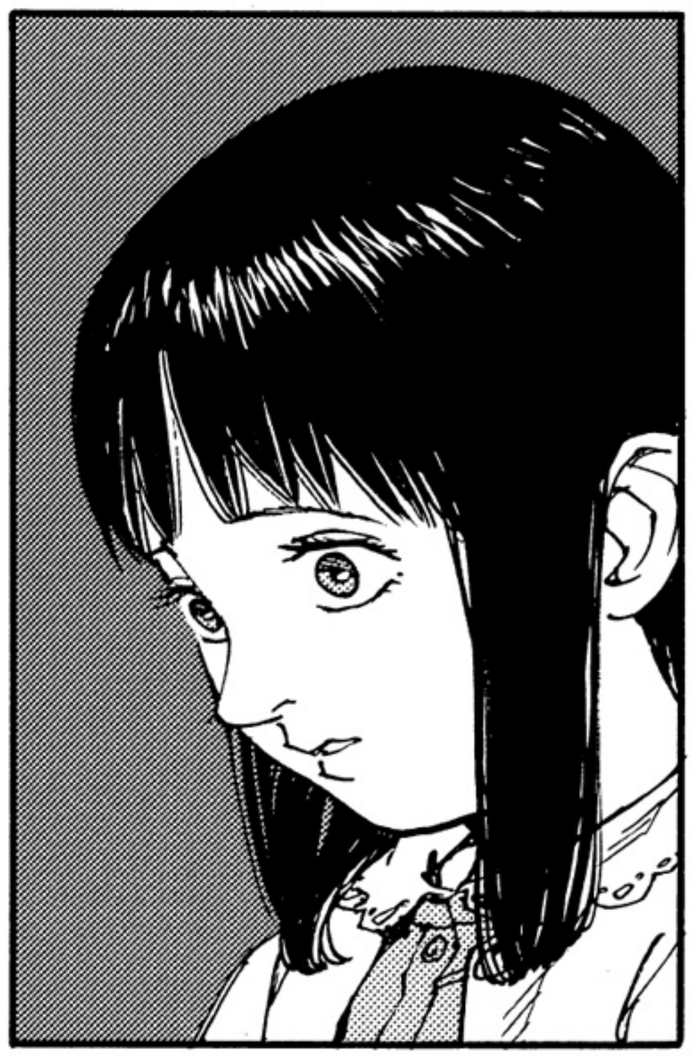
...B-BASTARD...

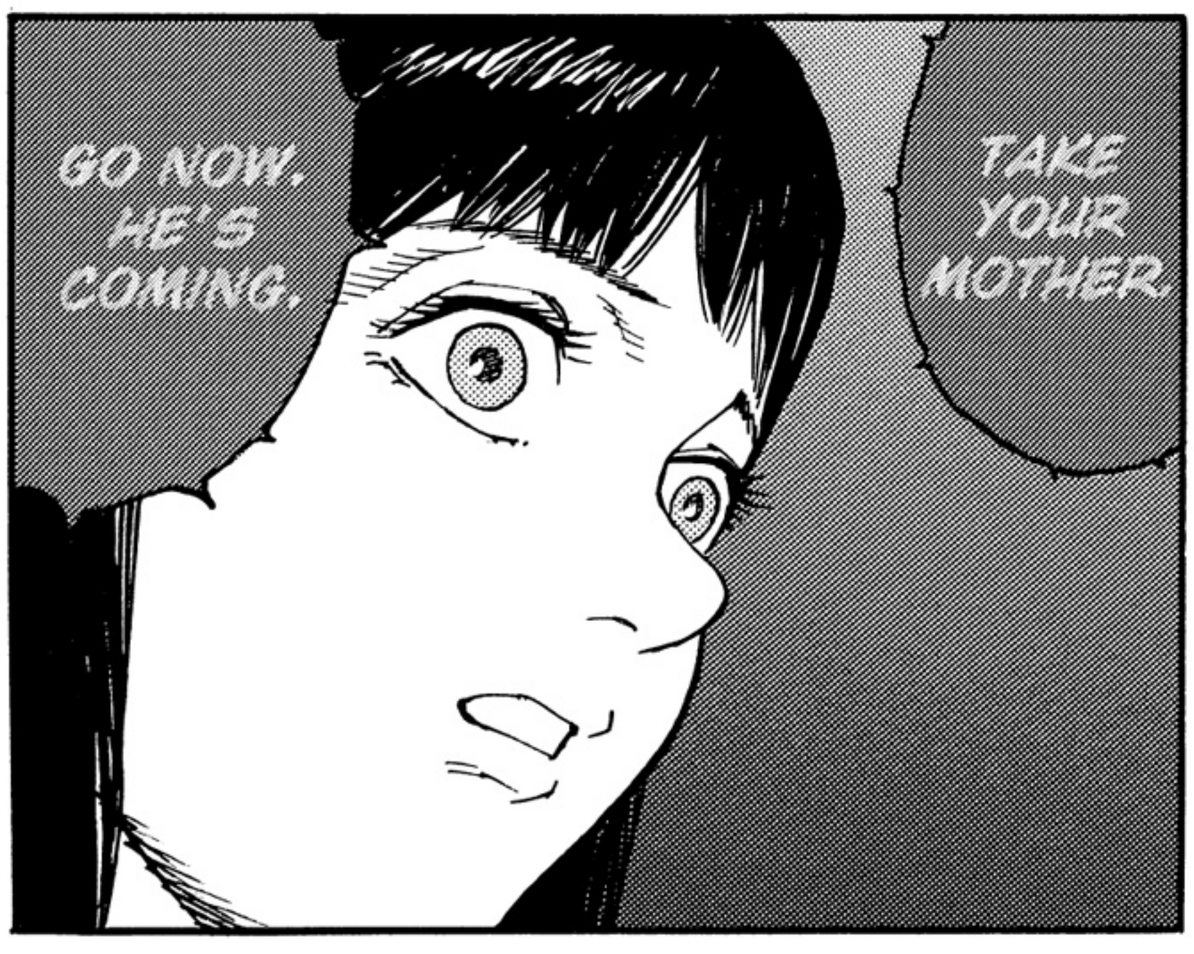
thmp

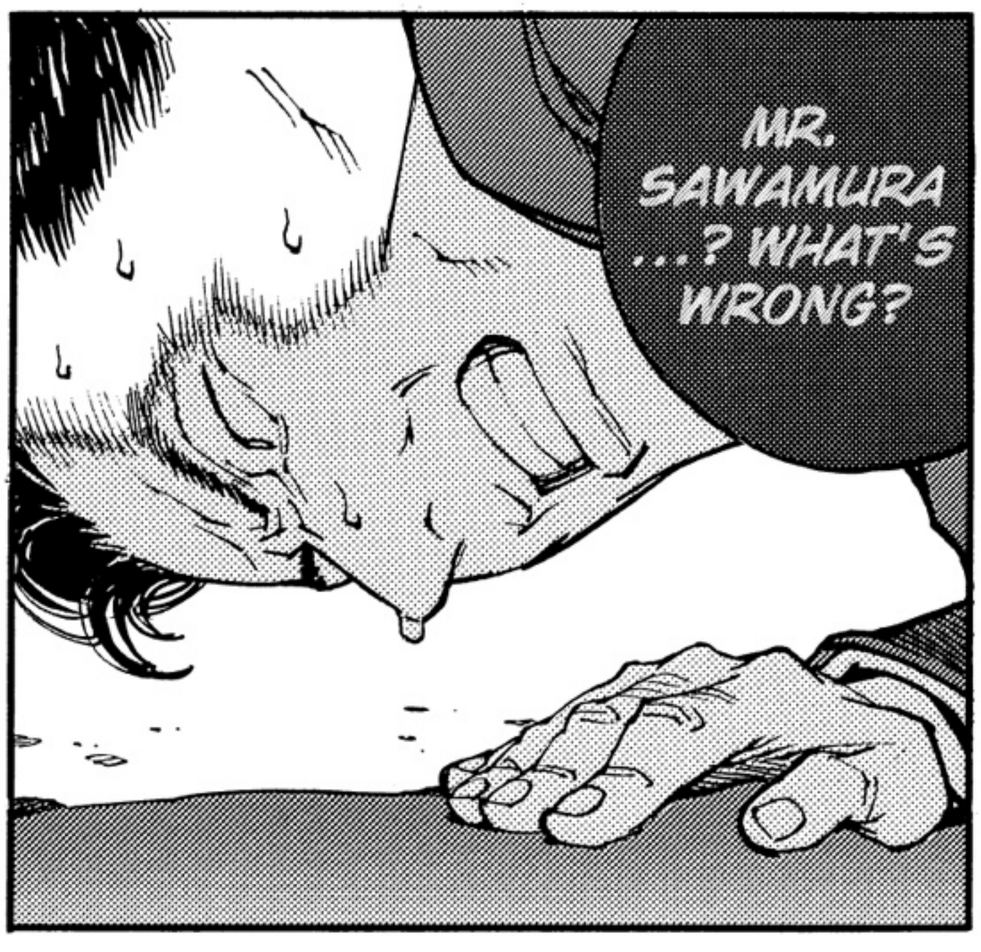

...SATOKO!
SA...

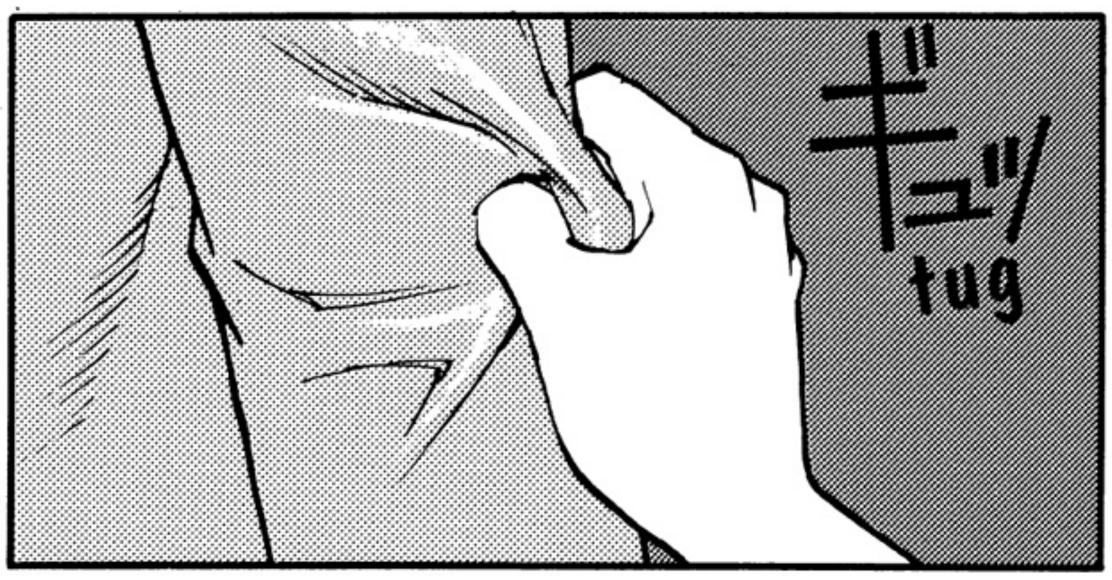

gggh...
tmp tmp tmp


SATOKO... RUN...




GO NOW. HE'S COMING.
TAKE YOUR MOTHER.

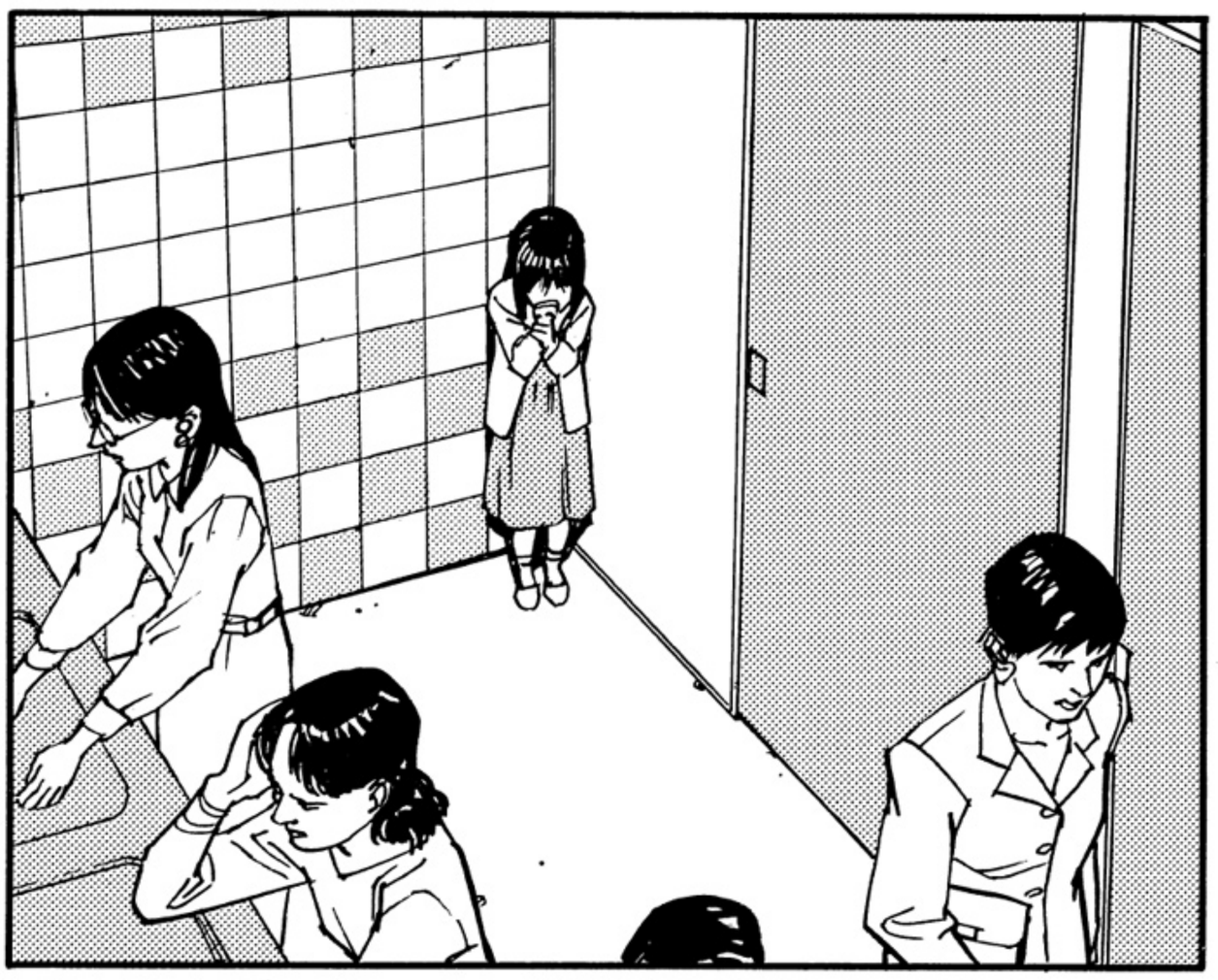

MR. SAWAMURA ...? WHAT'S WRONG?

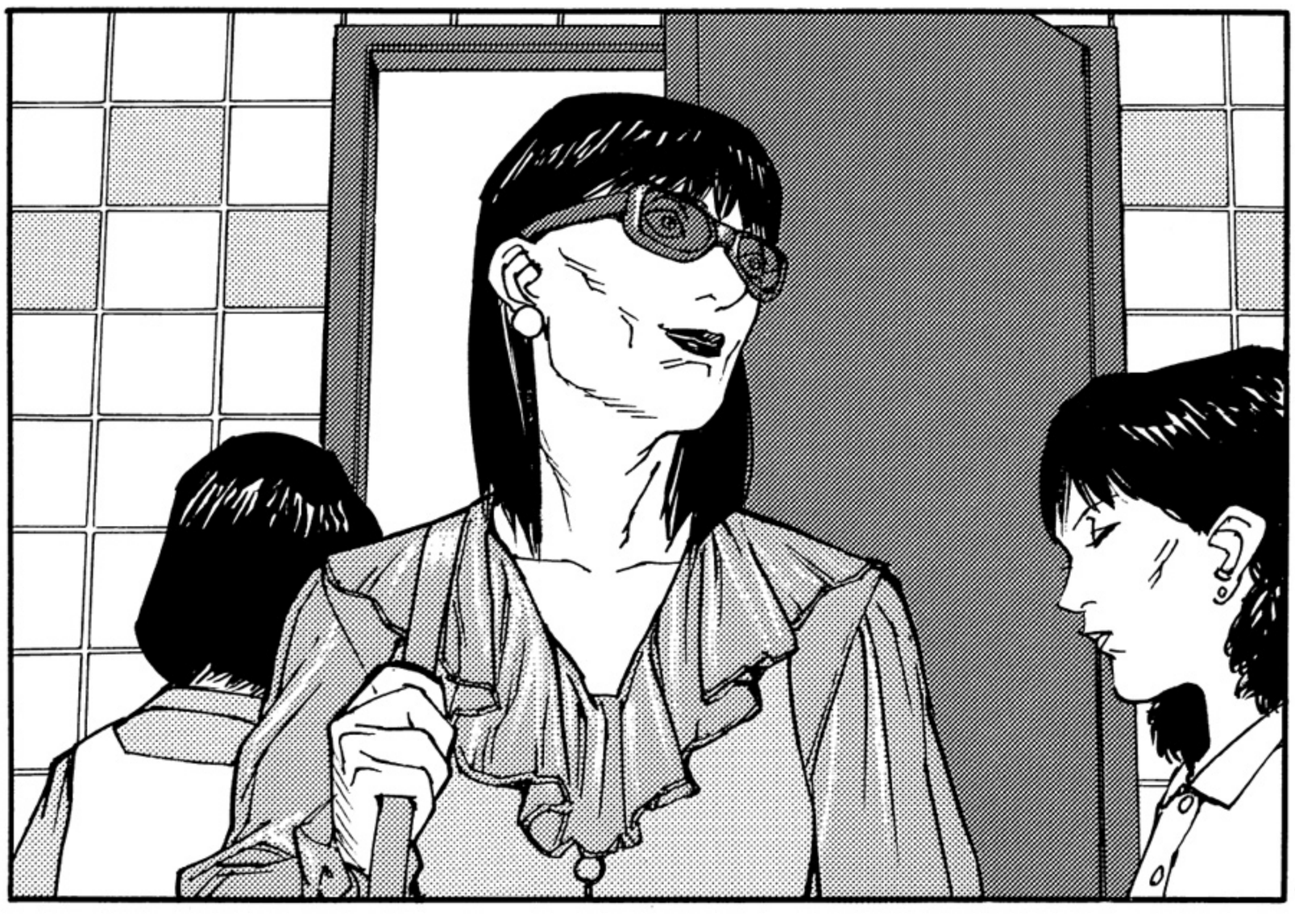

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tug

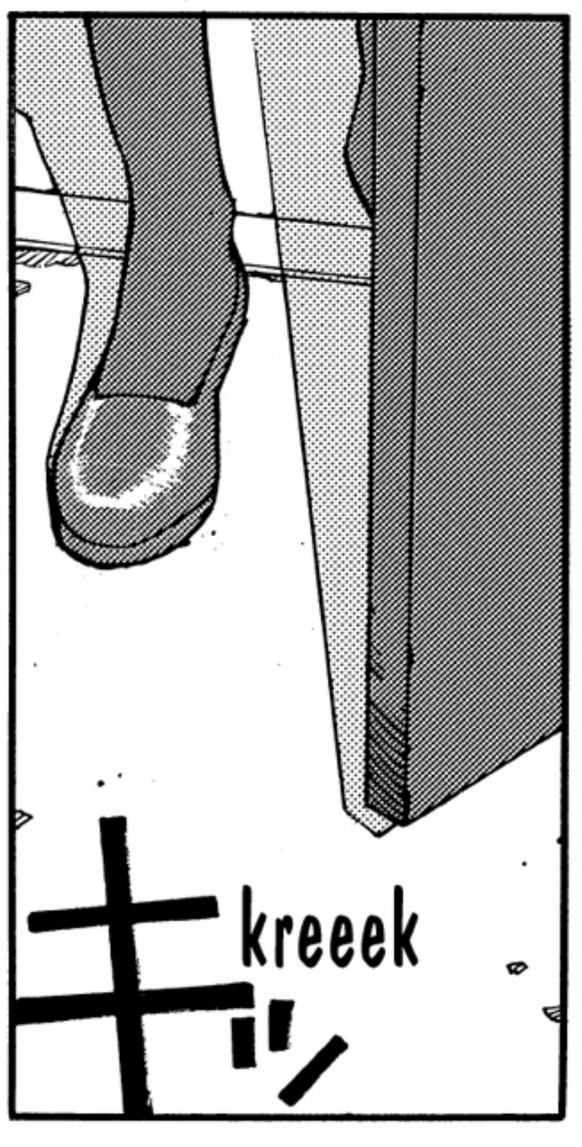



SATOKO, WAIT HERE, OKAY? MAMA HAS TO GO TO THE BATHROOM.


PAIN... YOU'RE IN SO MUCH PAIN. WHAT'S WRONG ...?
ARE YOU THERE? MR. SAWAMURA?






キ
kreeek

hahh

hahh

hahh

オオオオ

rrrrrrrrrrr

...I REALLY DON'T WANT TO SEE THIS.

JUST... YOU KNOW?

I'M SORRY ...

hahh

hahh

gasp

LIN HAS TO KNOW...

...WHO HE HUNTS DOWN AFTER SAWAMURA.

koff

hrrg

koff

SATOKO !!

SATOKO ...WHERE ARE YOU...?!

I DON'T LIKE IT ONE BIT...BUT THAT SO-CALLED GOD IS RIGHT.

WE CAN'T HELP HIM.

I KNOW... BUT IT'S GOTTA HAPPEN.

...FOR ME TO LIVE.

VRRMMMM

ブオオオ

THAT GUY HAS TO DIE...

IF I KILL THAT KILLER, THEN THE MASQUE WILL NEVER BE...

AND THEN THERE'S THE MASQUE...

klangg

chinggg

関係者以外の
立入禁止
KEEP OUT

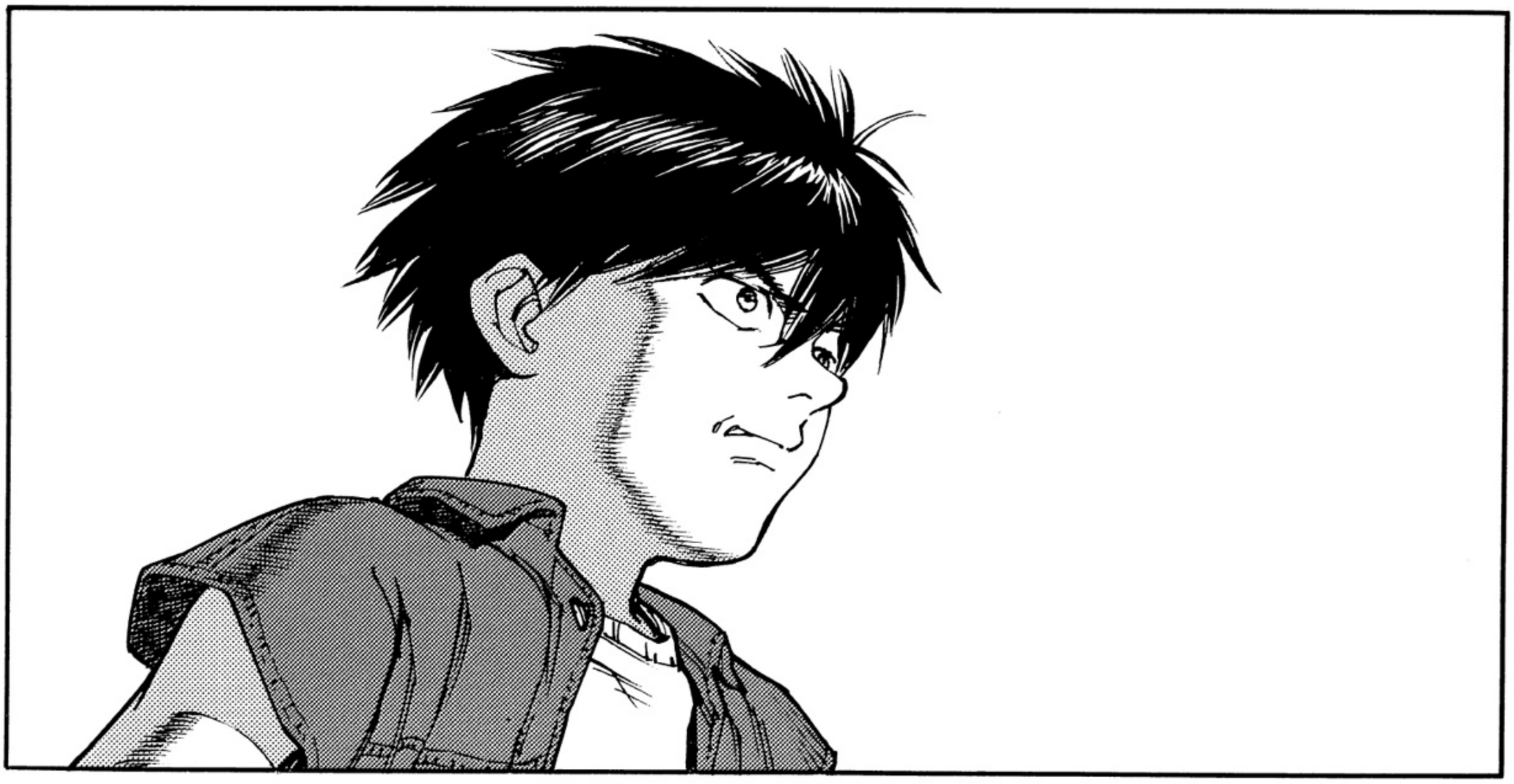
SATOKO
...

...
SATOKO
!!

tmp tmp tmp tmp tmp

SATOKO
...


...THE ABANDONED BUILDING... BY THE LAKE!!
I'M COMING, SATOKO!! DON'T GIVE UP HOPE!!
VRRRRRRR
ギャアアア



PRETTY LIPS... LITTLE NOSE.

BIG EYES... YOU'RE PERFECT, AREN'T YOU?

THAT'S RIGHT! BE AFRAID OF ME.

...ALL THOSE PRETTY PARTS THAT I DON'T HAVE.

HEH... EHHH HEH HEHH!

I WANT TO FEEL IT INSIDE ME... I CAN, YOU KNOW!!

HE WON'T BE COMING TO SAVE YOU, I'M AFRAID. TOO BUSY BLEEDING OUT.

OH, AND THAT DETECTIVE FRIEND OF YOURS?

...!!

ripppp

krakkk

JESUS, I DREW THIS SCENE...AND EVEN I THINK IT'S TOO MUCH.

...WHO'S THERE?!

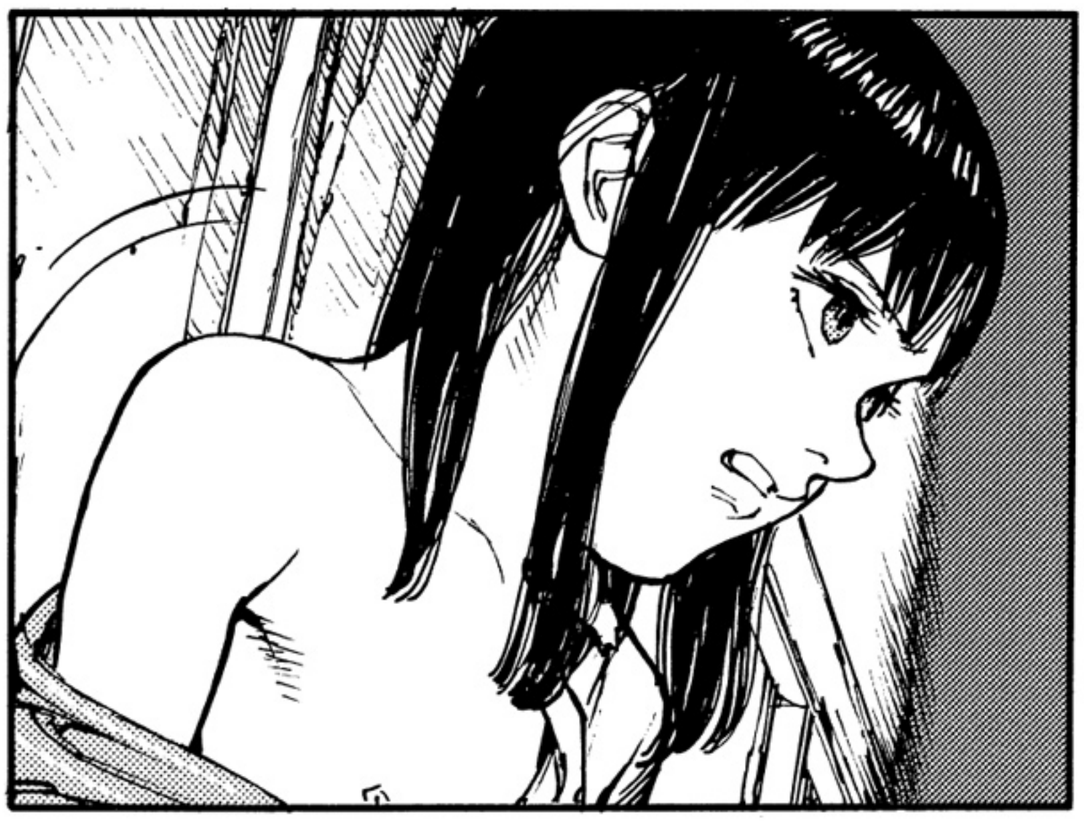
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blammmmm

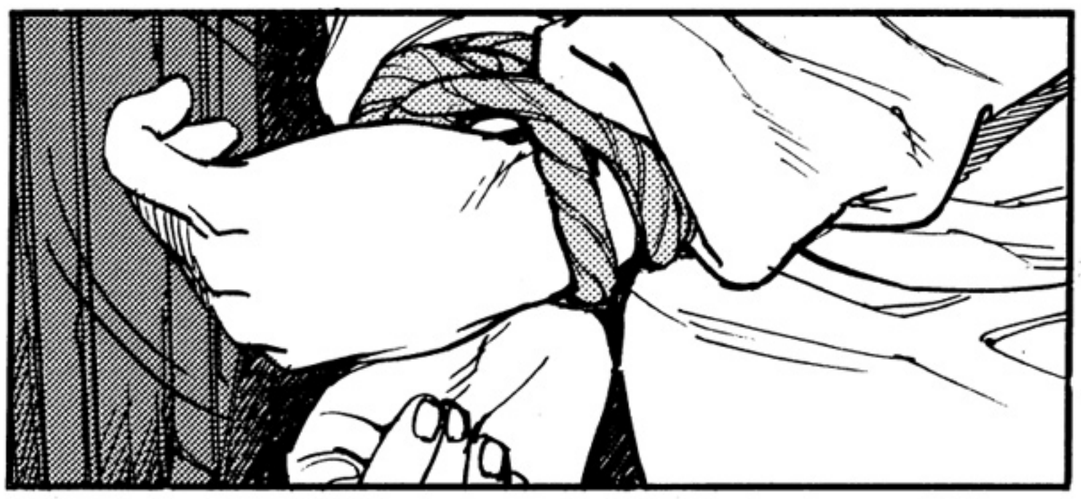
I'M HERE... SATOKO!

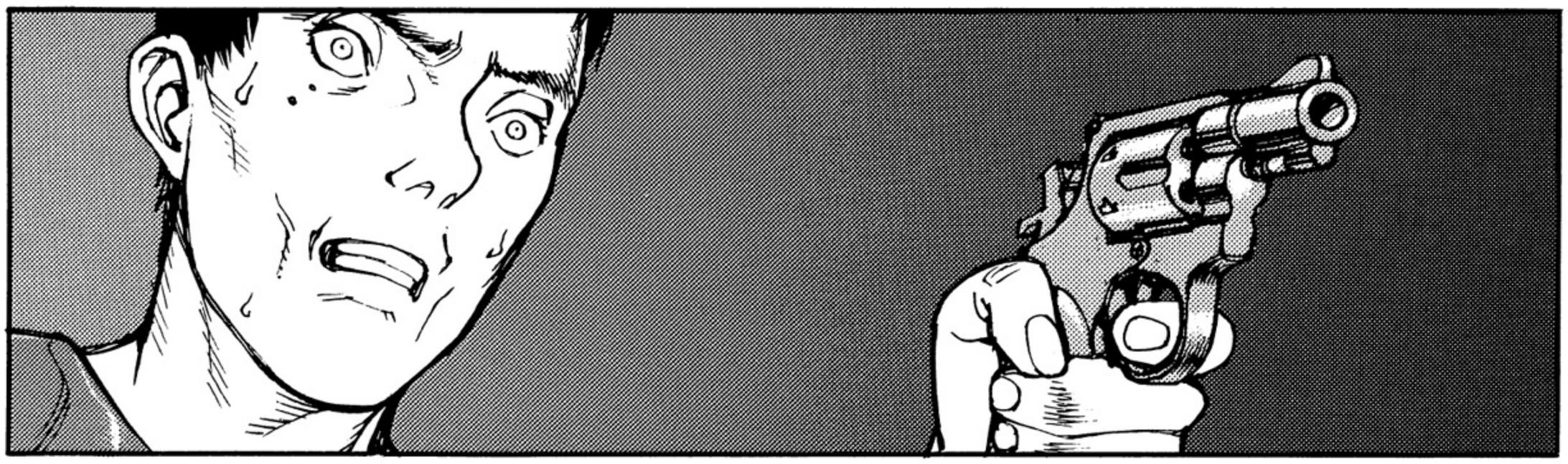
chapter eighteen

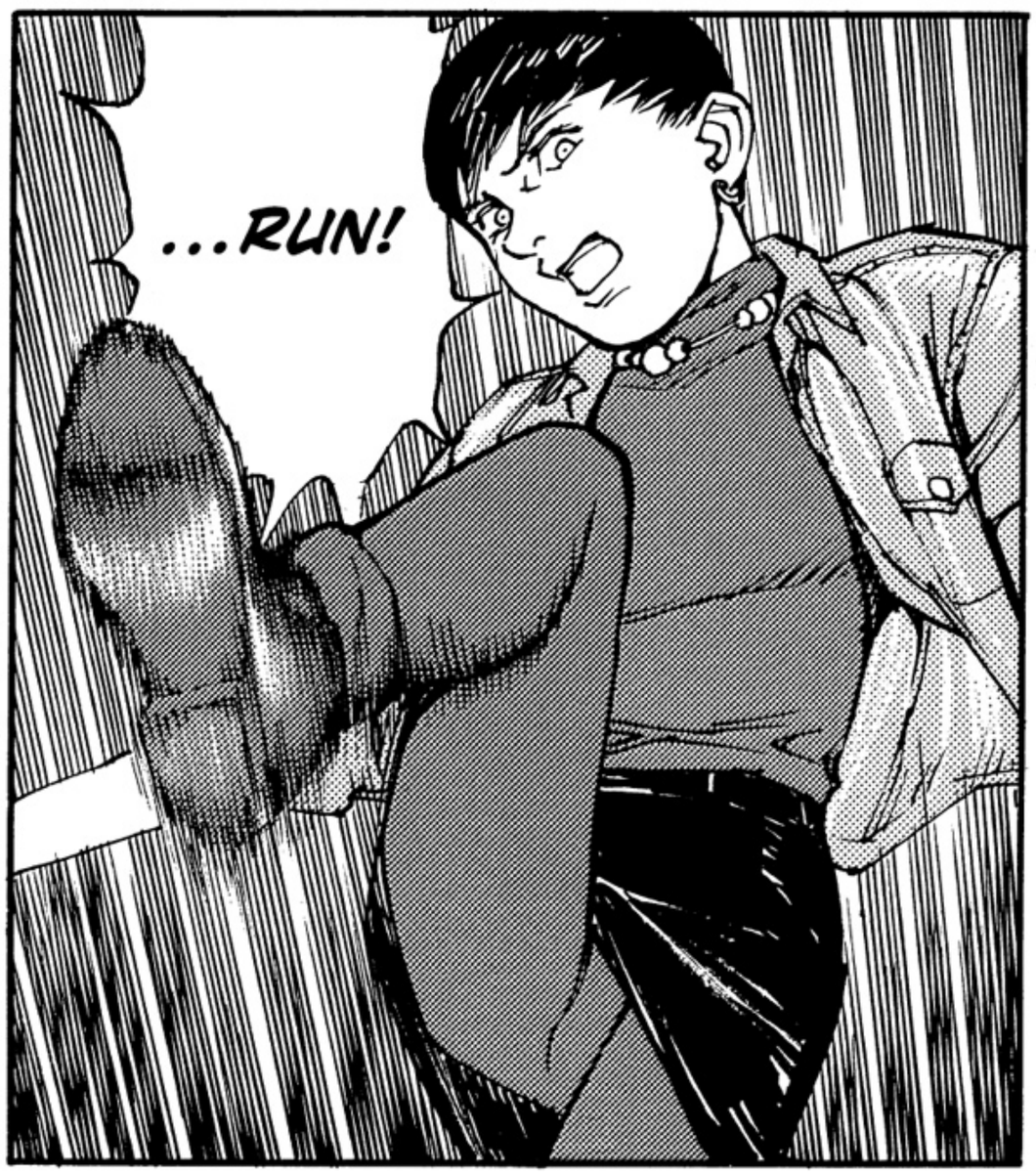
SHOW YOUR-SELF!



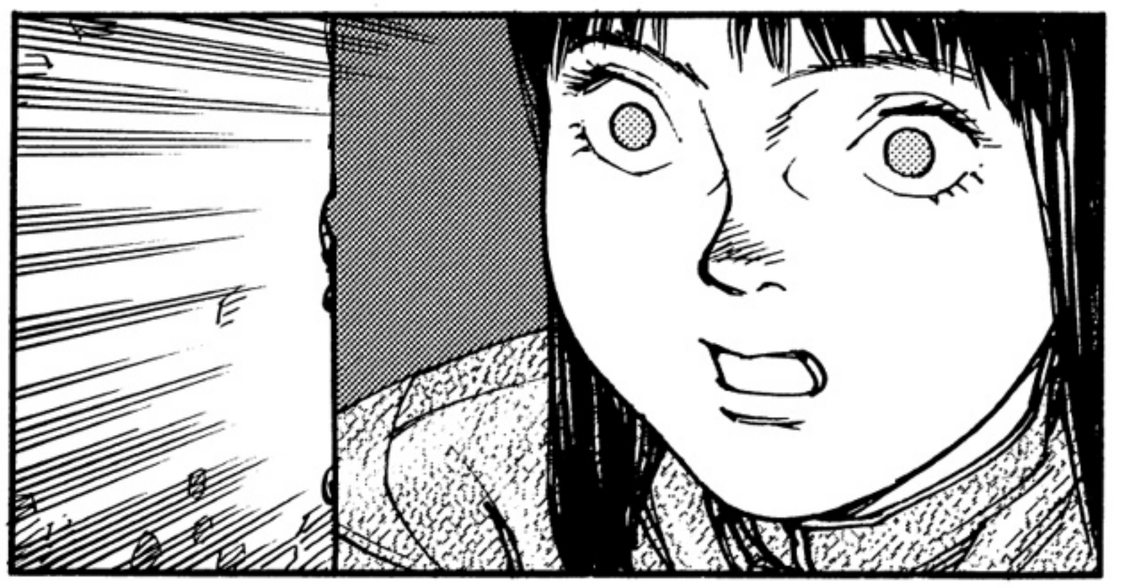

I'VE GOT FIVE MORE BULLETS FOR YOU...






...RUN!






krashh
MEI!
blamm
KYAA!!
UP-
STAIRS
...!
klangg
klangg

...I WASN'T EXPECTING HIM TO MAKE IT THIS FAR. WHAT THE HELL'S GOING TO HAPPEN *NOW...?*

I THOUGHT YOU SAID WE COULDN'T INTERFERE ...?!

tmp tmp tmp

blammm

WHERE'S MEI?!

...SHIT!!

...
HMPH

パキ

krikkk

hahh

haa

haa

hahh

...!

thmp
thmp
thmp
?!
krashh

ヨ whump

...?

パリン rattle rattle ガシャン

...

ゴオオ whoooosh

RESONANCE • NAKED CHILD • BY CHIKARA NAGAHIRO

thmp

THAT GUY'S NO ONE TO MESS WITH!!

...THANKS, BIG BROTHER!!

I'M GOING TO FINISH THIS...!

LIN...!

STAY PUT, OKAY ?!

STOP IT, LIN! I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT ALL THIS...

...GOD HAS GIVEN HIS PROPHECY.

THE WORLD... THE WORLD WILL WASH AWAY...

thonk

WHERE WILL YOU RUN TO *NOW...?!*

flip flip

krashh

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE ...?

HOW IS THIS MANGA ABOUT ME...?!

...SHIT!!

...WHERE ARE YOU?!

SATOKO...

ギュッ

twnchh

MEI! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...?!

...BUT IT'S NOT LIKE LIN'S THE ONLY ONE CAUSING DAMAGE.

YEAH...

NOT SO LOUD, OKAY? I THINK LIN HAS HER.

...SO HE *IS* HERE.

IS THE MASQUE REALLY BEHIND IT ALL...?

SOME-THING'S NOT RIGHT WITH THIS.

I'M TRYING TO *PROTECT* THIS WORLD ...!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN...? IT CAN'T BE...

カラ・ン
plink



WILL YOU HELP...

WHO ARE YOU ...?!

DON'T DO IT... SATOKO!

...ME.

krakkk

ゴゴゴゴ

kkkrakkk

krrraakkk

!!

ゴオオー

ROARRRR

KYAA!!

AAAA!!

オオオ

ROARRRR

!

オオオ

RRROAARRRRRR

...TIME TO DIE.

WHOEVER YOU ARE...

ゴゴオオ

ROOARRRRR

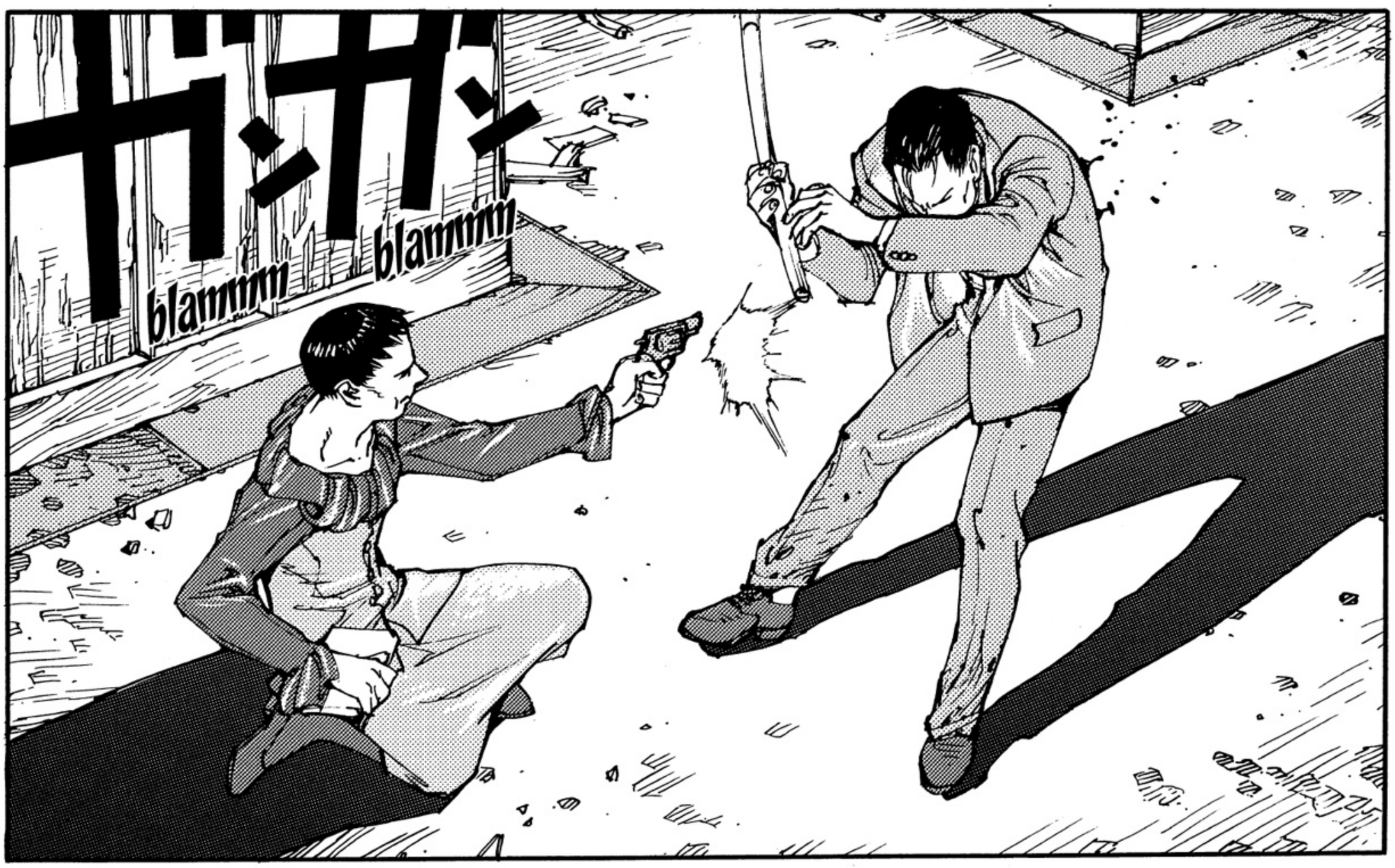
SHEESH.

WHERE WILL YOU RUN TO *NOW...?!*

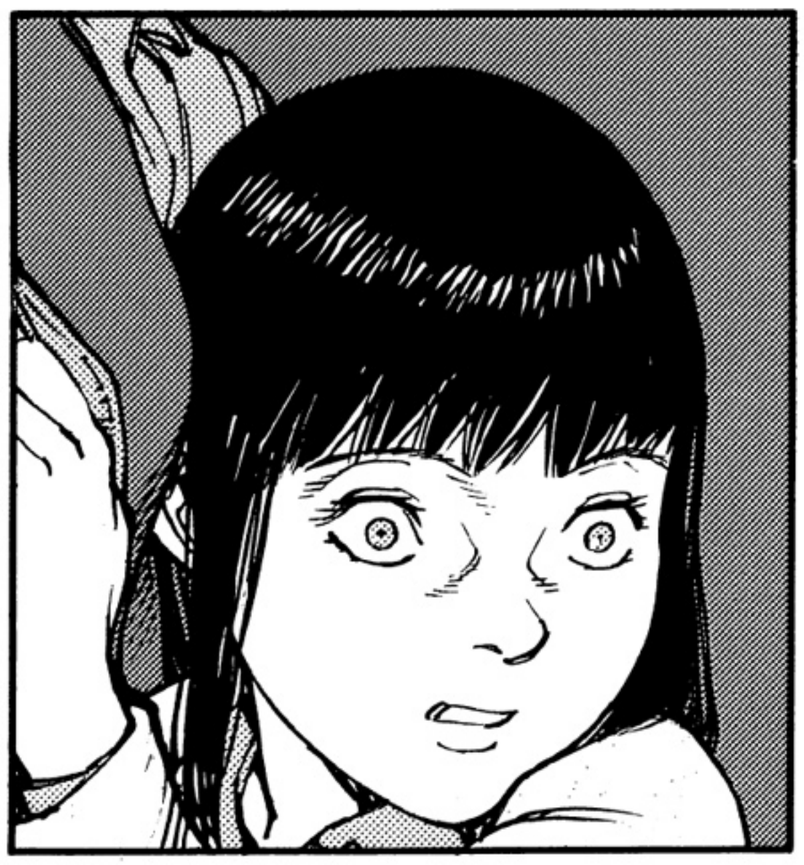
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Chak

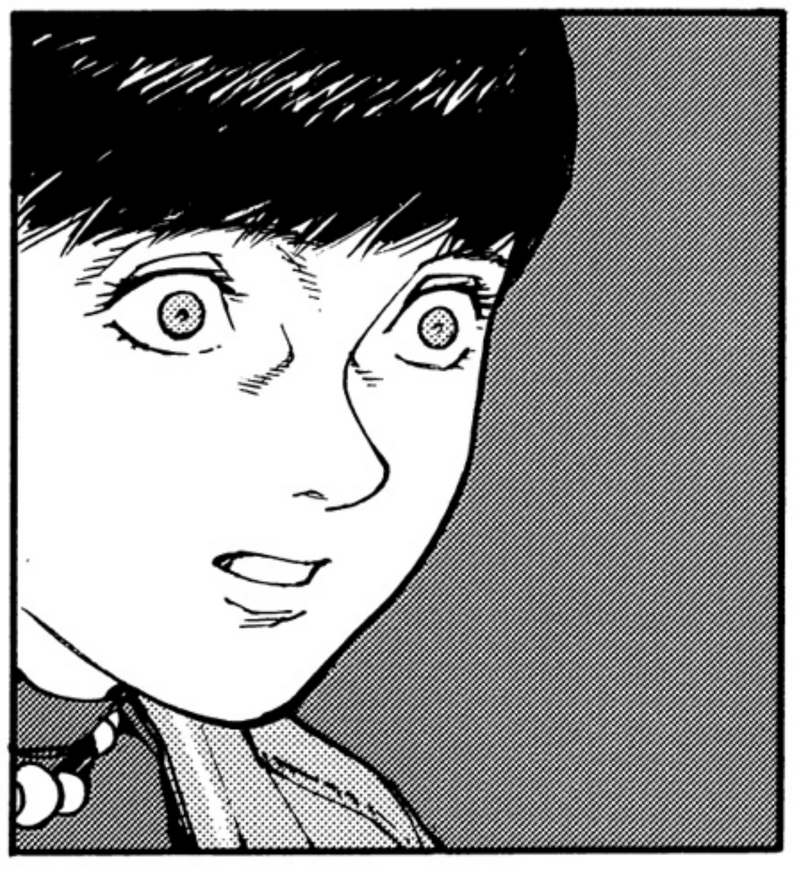
TH-THIS IS IT! THIS IS WHERE SAWAMURA ...

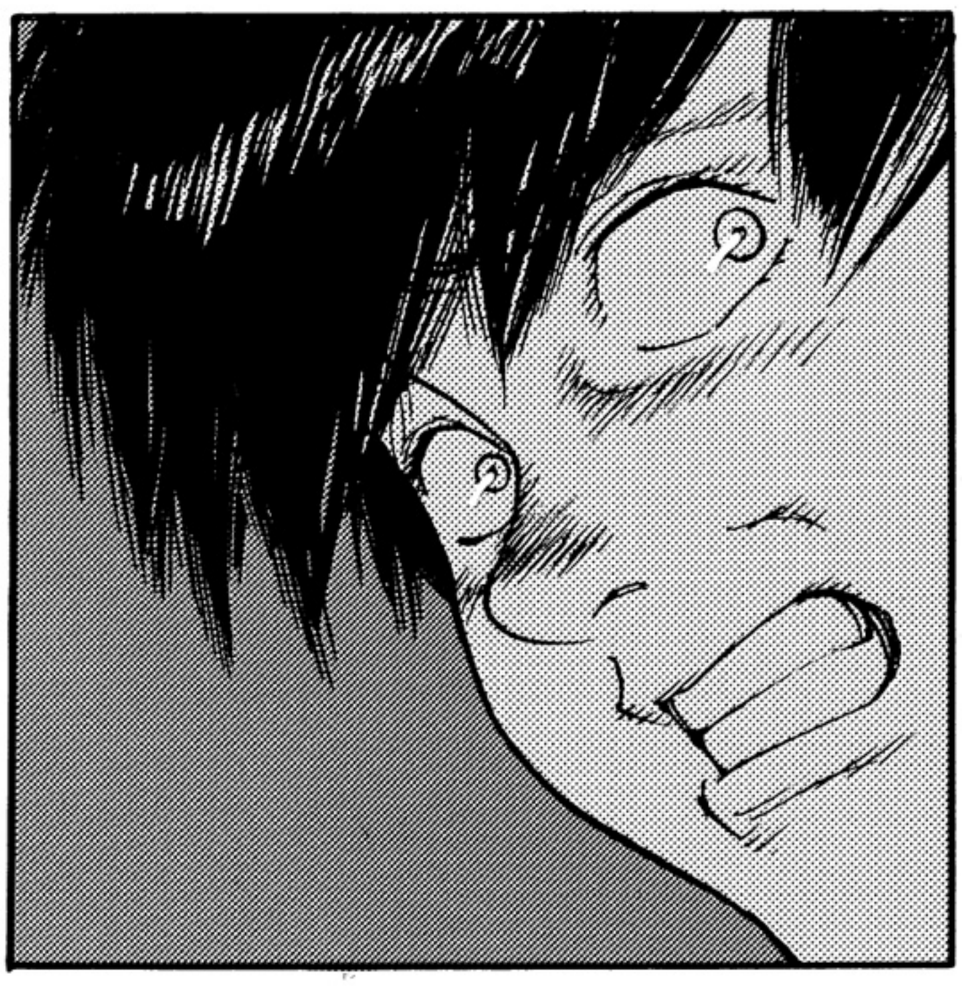
stomp

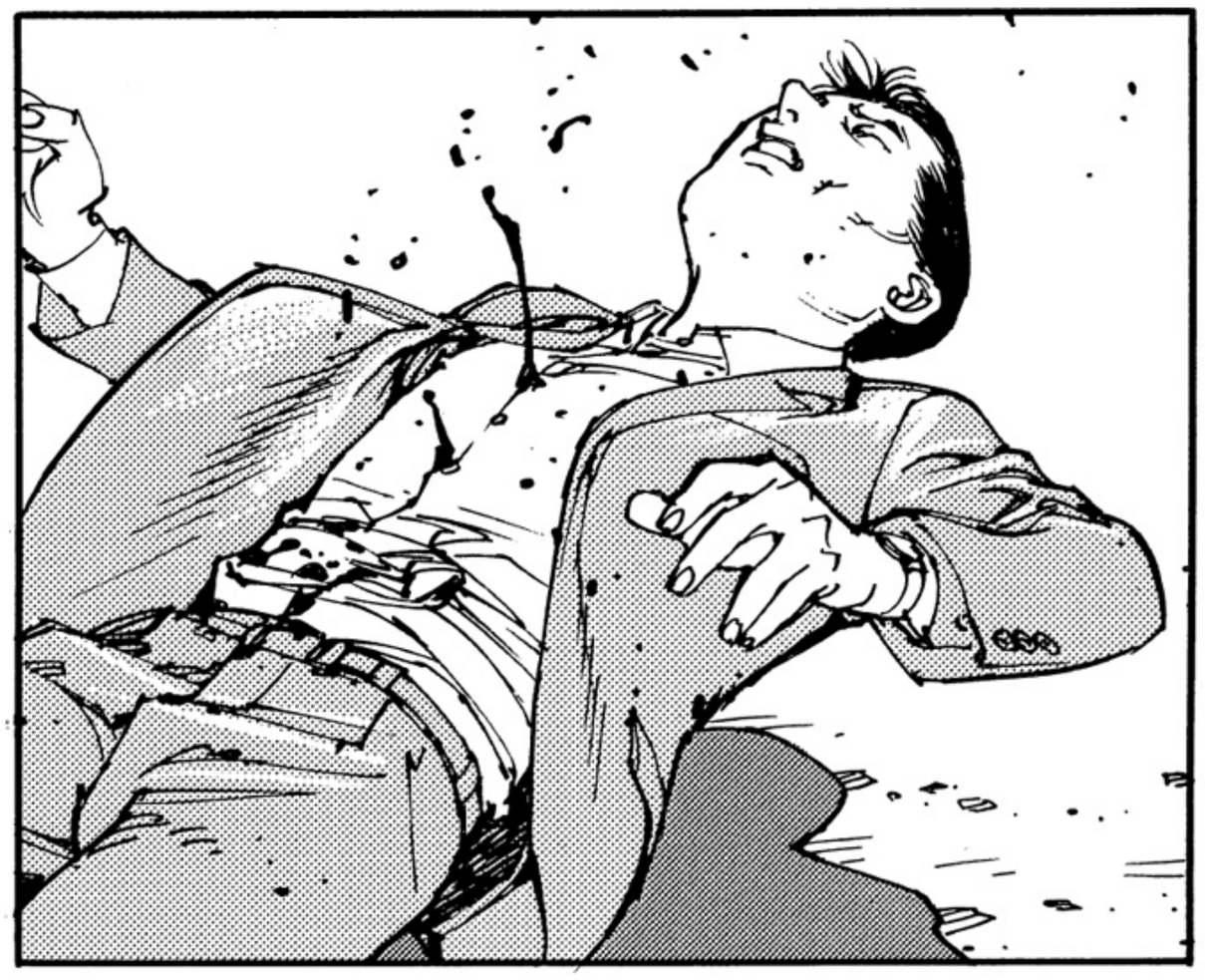

blammm
blammm











NOW *THAT* WAS VIVIDLY PORTRAYED.

whudd

whump

MR. SAWAMURA ...!

YOU'VE CHANGED THE ENDING! HOW'D YOU...?

MY MANGA ...!

...HOW DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD END IT NOW...?

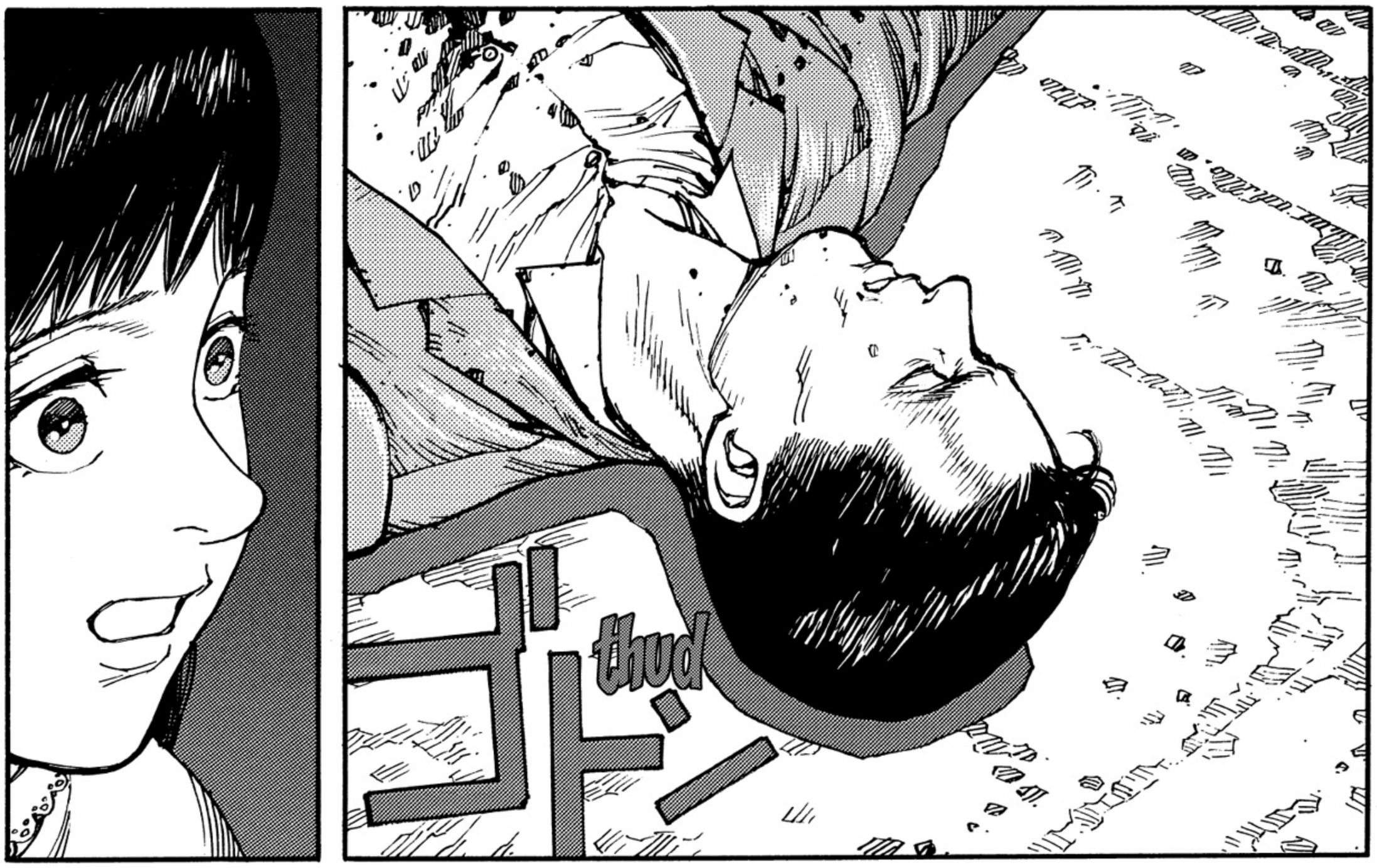
ALL RIGHT, THEN...

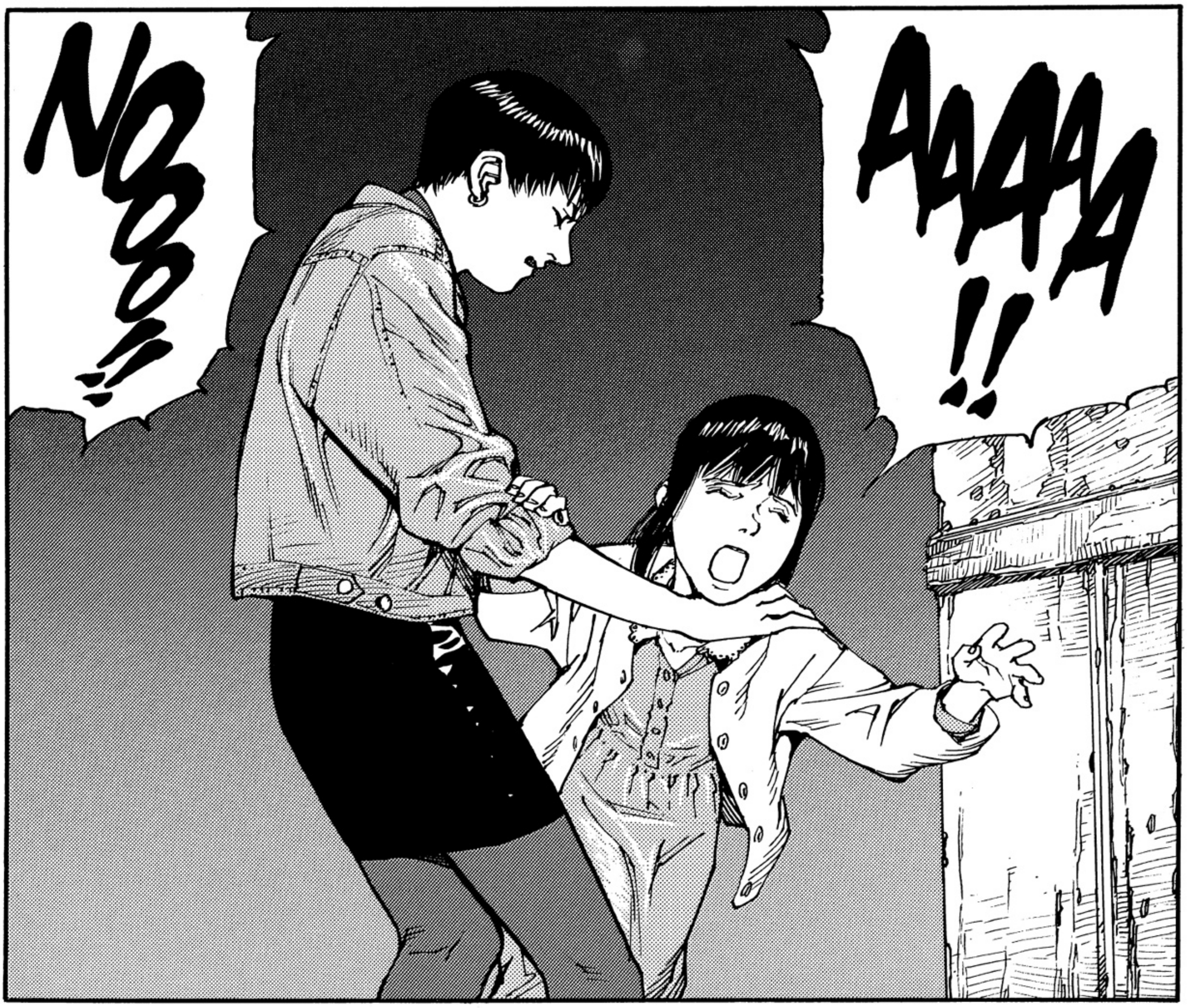
chapter nineteen

...
SATOKO
...

SA...

327


thud


No?
Aaaa
!!

...BUT ENOUGH WITH THE FOREPLAY.

THAT GOT ME SOOOOOO HOT!!

NO? I SAY YEAAH-HHH!!!

UM...

...NOW *WHO* DO I WANT TO DO FIRST...?

THEN IT'S UP TO YOU.

HE'S ONLY GOT ONE BULLET LEFT. I CAN JUMP HIM.

tmp tmp tmp t

klak

SATOKO... THERE'S NO WAY I'M LETTING YOU SACRIFICE YOURSELF...!

...STEP FORWARD, MA'AM... LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT A VOLUNTEER.

DON'T...

...DON'T FUCK WITH GOD, OKAY?!

dash

KRAKK

...WOW!


LIN.
WELL, *SOMEBODY* HAD TO SAVE THE DAY.

THANK YOU.

I HAD MY ROLE TO PLAY AFTER ALL.

...SORRY.

WELL, SHIT. IF GOD IS DEAD, THEN WHO'S GONNA FIX HIS MESS?

WE SHOULD GO GET MEI... THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO HERE.

sob

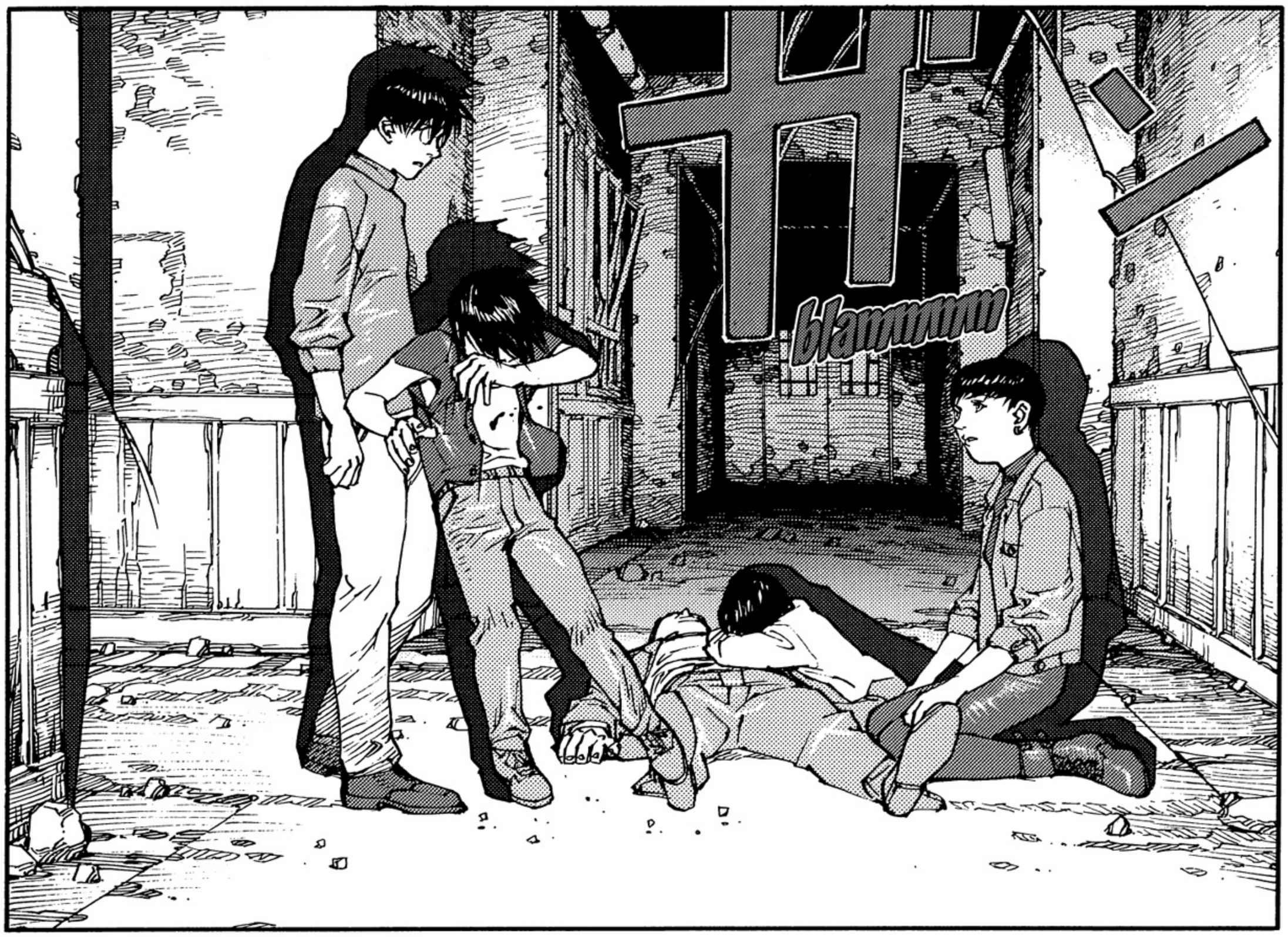
sob

sob

sob

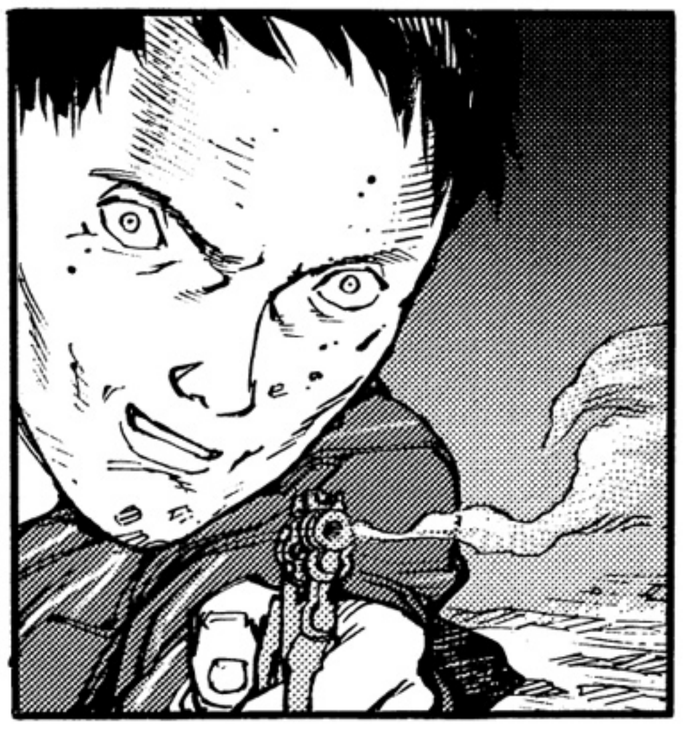
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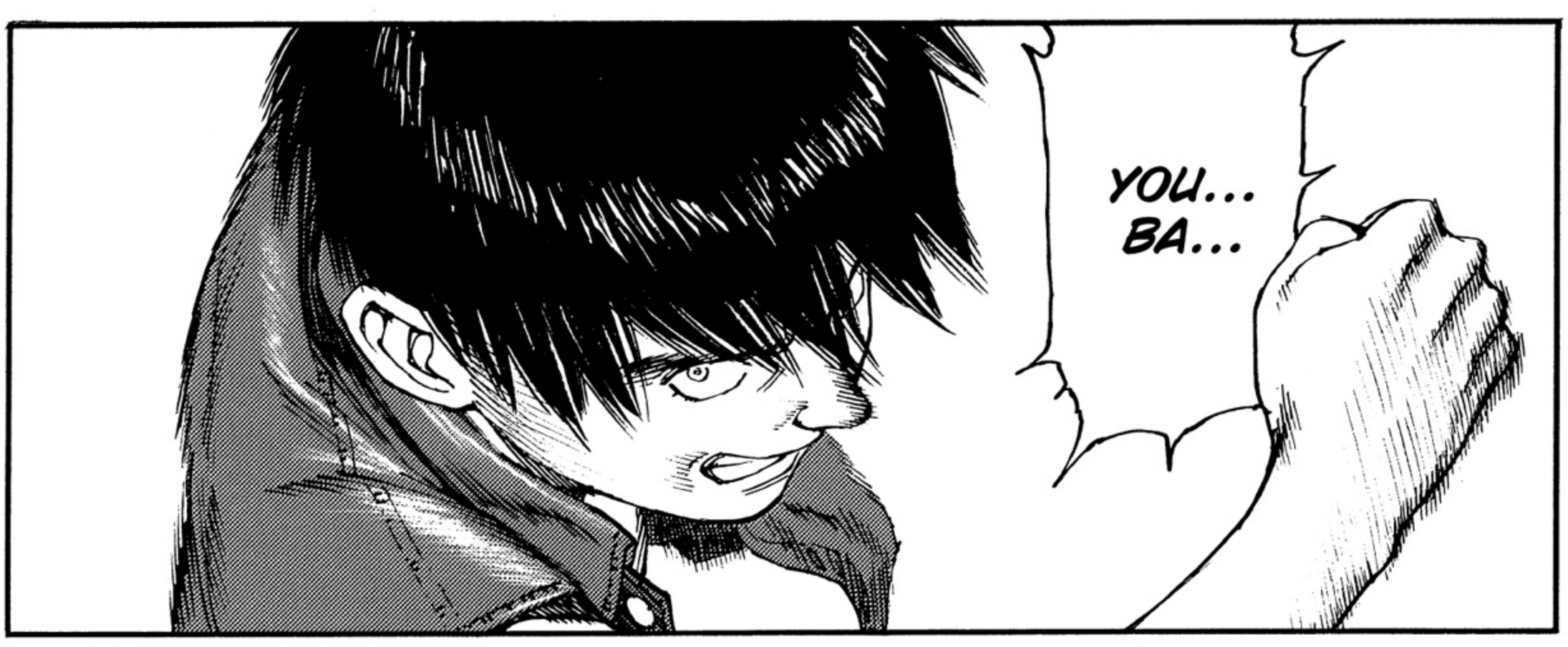
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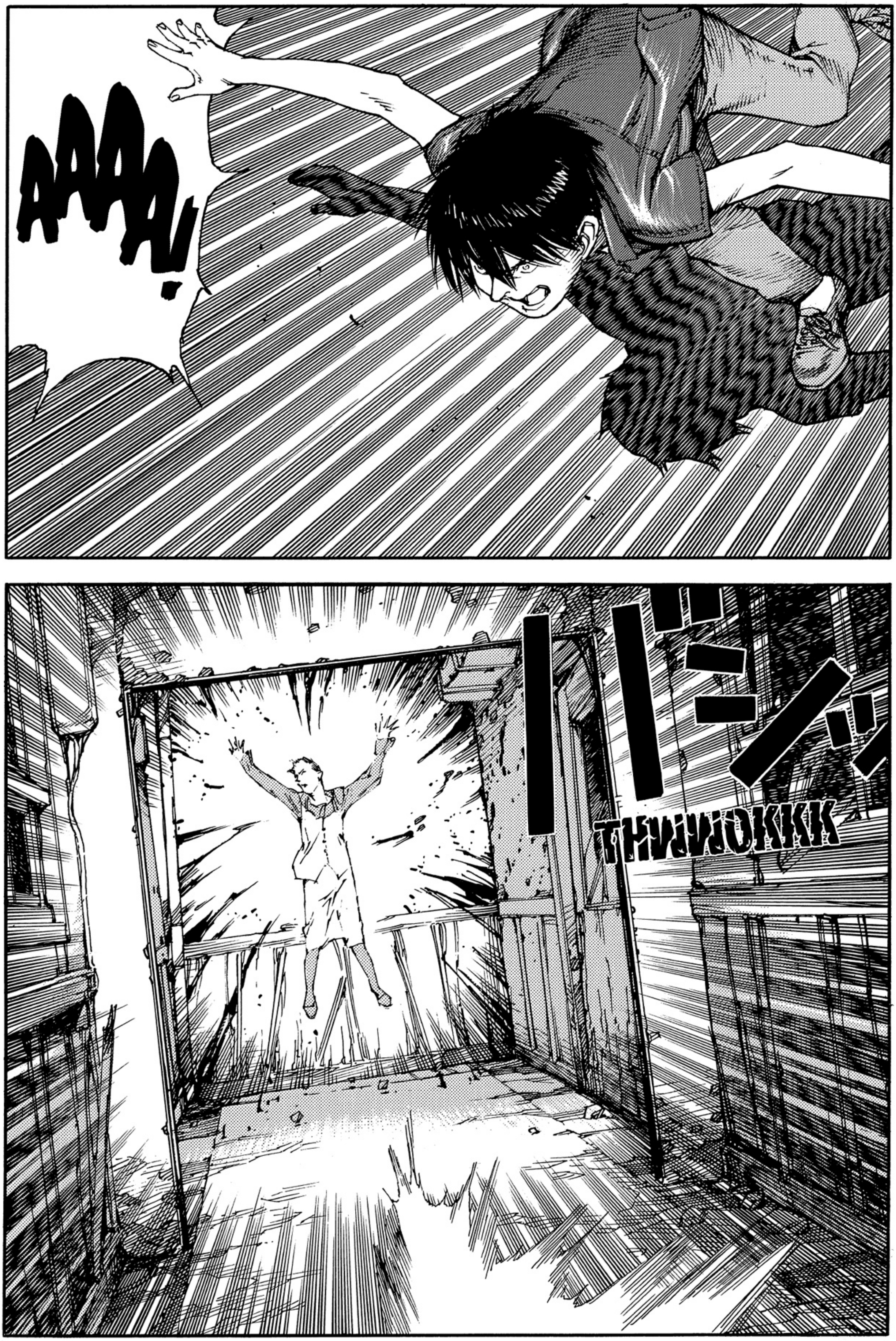

blammmm


...






YOU...
BA...


AAAA!
ドン!!

W-
WELL
...

...HOW'S
THE
DRAWING
LOOK,
GOD...?

ARE
YOU
OKAY
...?!

LIN!

HEH...GOT
YOUR FINALE
AFTER ALL.

HOLD
ON! I
CAN
HELP
YOU...!!

ゴトン
thmpp

ズズズ
shhllppp

krakk

krakk

!

krikkk

krikk

krikkk

krikkk

krikk

BIG BROTHER... HELP ME...!

krakk

KYAAA!

ゴゴゴ

ROARRRRR

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!!

THE WORLD'S COMING UNDONE ...!!

!

...AH, IT'S SO GOOD TO BE OUT OF THAT MEAT.

HOW DID YOU...?

...BUT NOW I AM FREE.

MY CREATOR TRIES TO HIDE ME INSIDE BODIES...

WHAT DO YOU WANT ...?!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ?!

...I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF YOU.

AND YOU STILL DON'T KNOW? I'VE HIDDEN INSIDE YOU, TOO...

OF EVERYTHING.

I'M TAKING CONTROL NOW.

ナズナ

krash

sshhh

AAAA...!!

NO...!

krakkk

WAIT ...!



RESONANCE OPUS



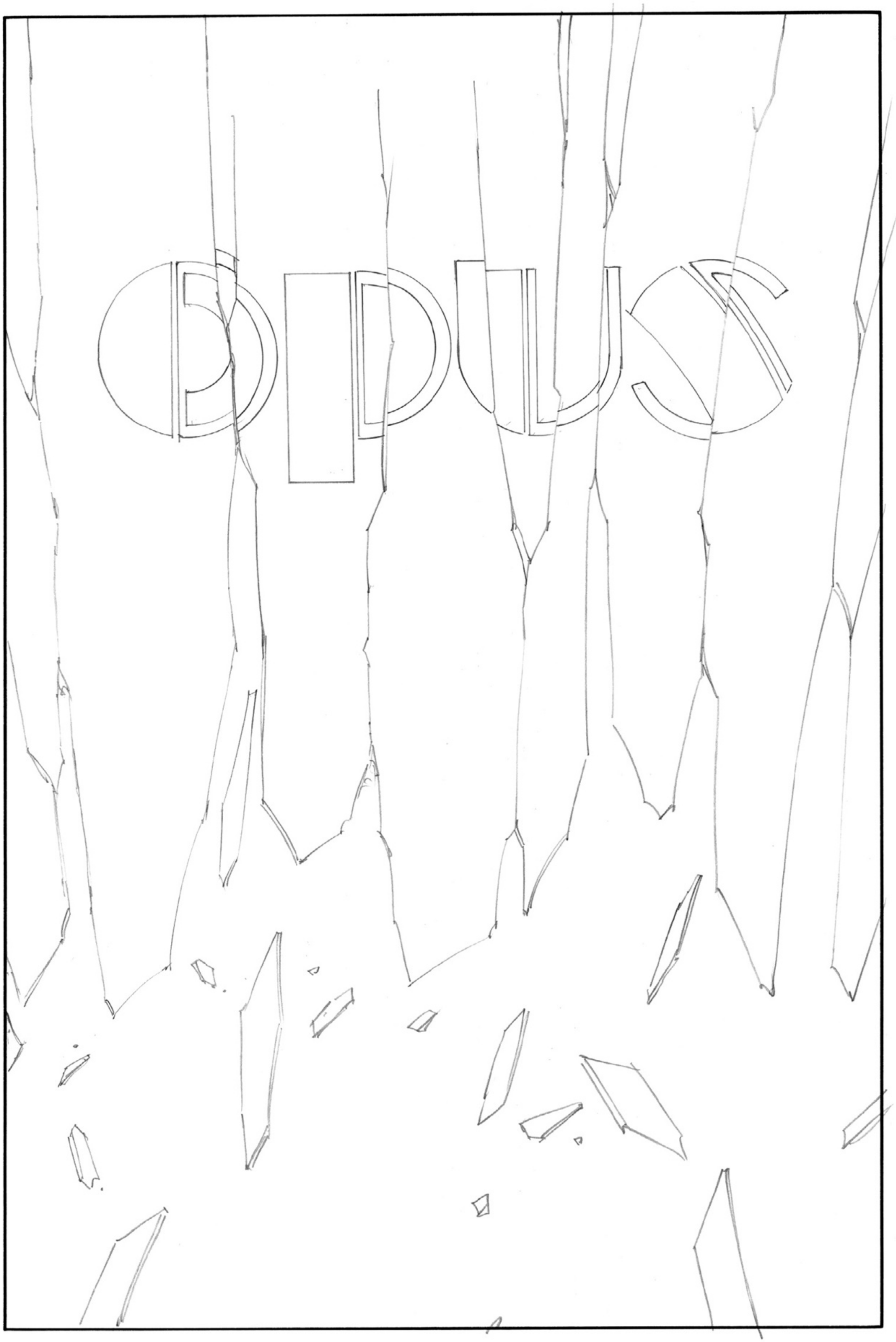
"What is fiction? What is reality?" These themes that define the late director Satoshi Kon's animated films were first explored in his comic series *OPUS*. Serialized by Gakken from October 1995 to June 1996 in *Comic Guy's* magazine, *OPUS* was Kon's final long-form manga.

An experimental work to start with, *OPUS* plunged further and further into the worlds of metafiction and the merging of creator and creation in forms of entertainment. As Kon's directorial career took off, his manga career was put on hold. *OPUS* went on permanent hiatus and would not be completed.

Although it was never officially announced, Kon worked on an additional chapter, which was itself never finished or published for various reasons. This chapter was found in his files after his death. It is mostly uninked and drawn in rough pencils. However, even given the raw state of the art, we feel that there is enough here to distinguish the characters and understand the intent of the story.

After consulting with Kon's family and getting their permission, we are honored to publish the final chapter of *OPUS* for the first time, just as it was found.

Thank you very much,
Ryu Comics Editorial Department
[original Japanese publishers of the collected *OPUS*]


OPUS

ROARRRRR

AAAA!!

Think of something! A sudden twist! You can't end the story like this...!

We're doomed ...!

ROARRRR

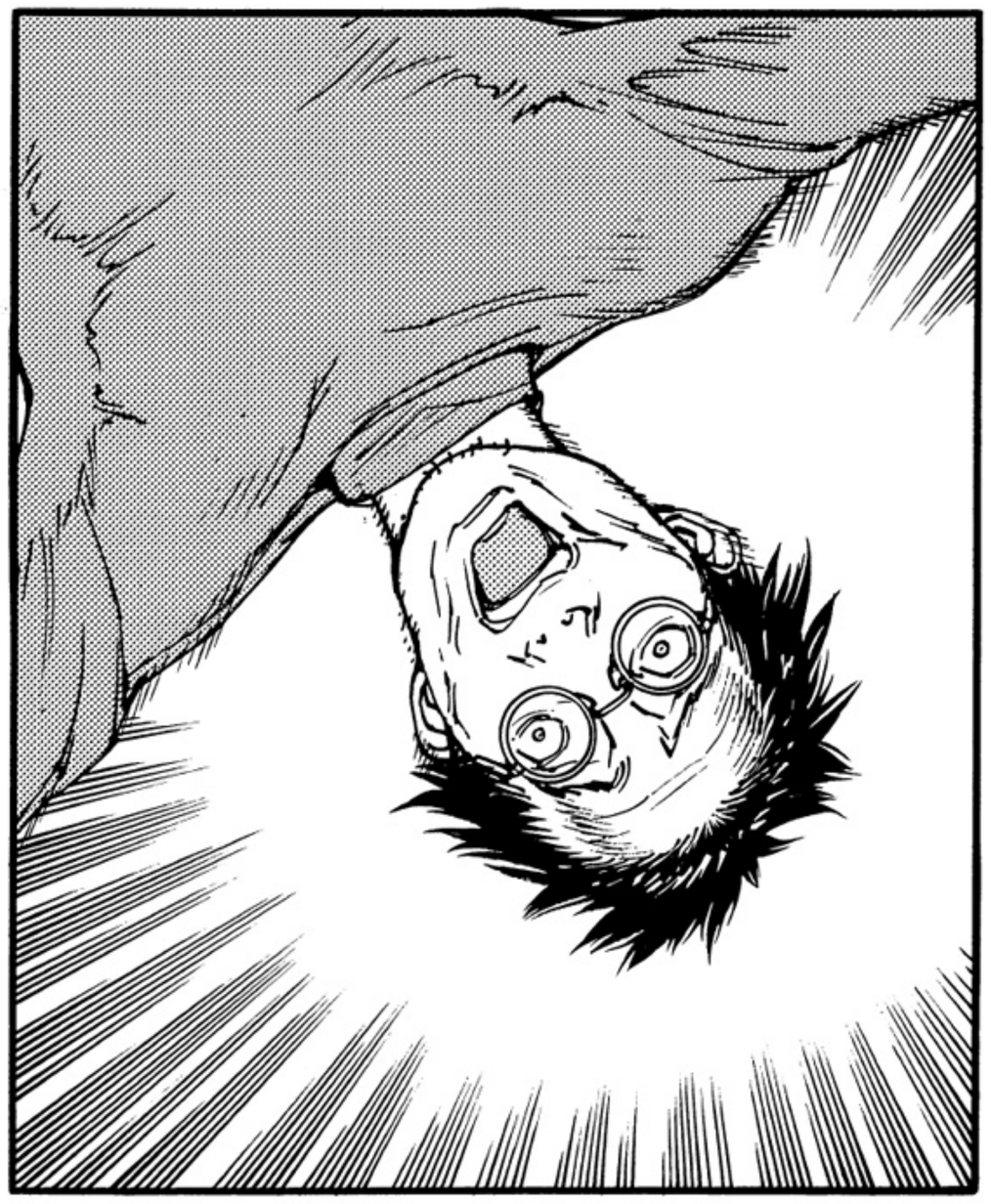
Don't look at me...my power's gone.

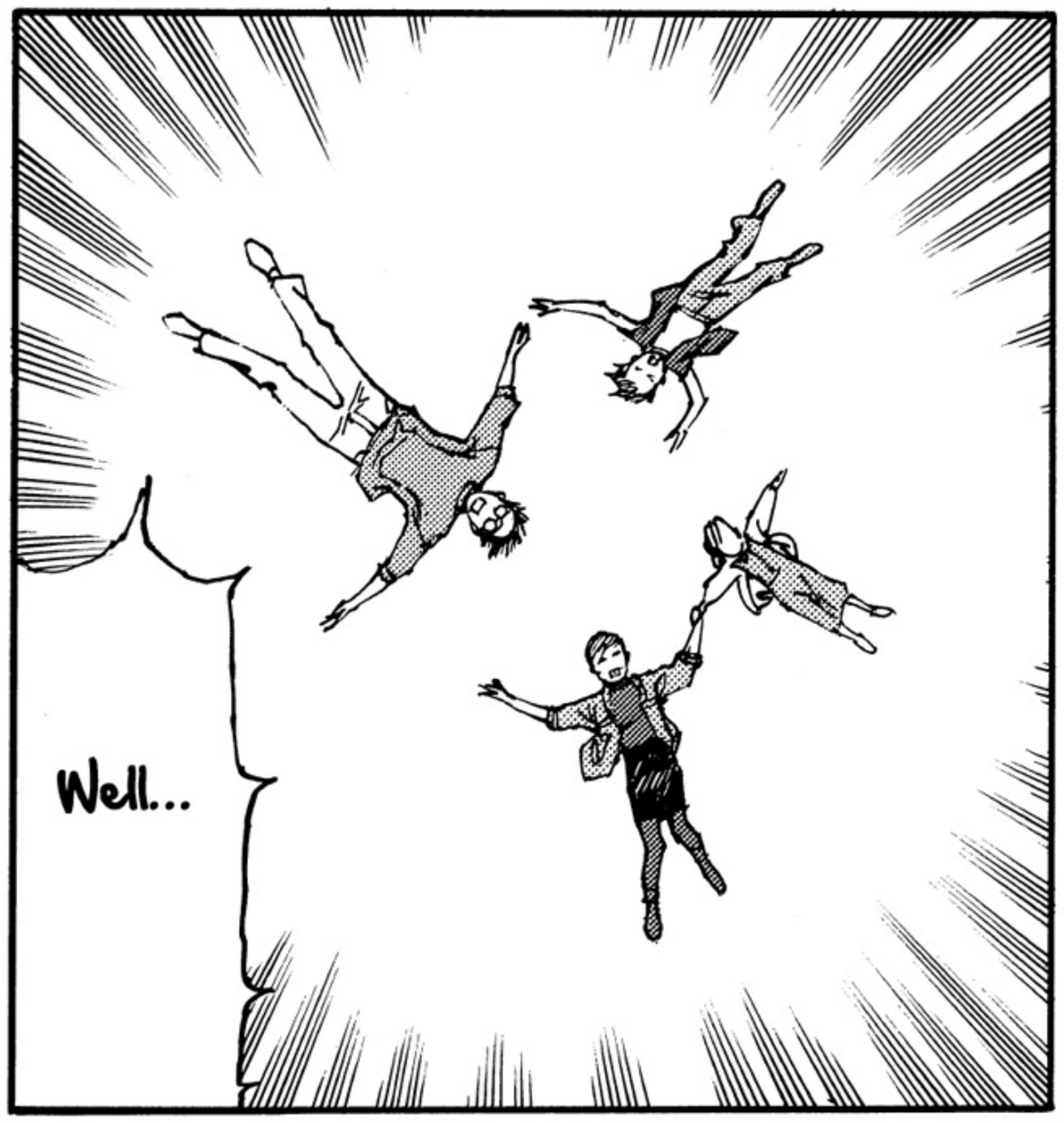
Satoko... I'm so glad I met you.

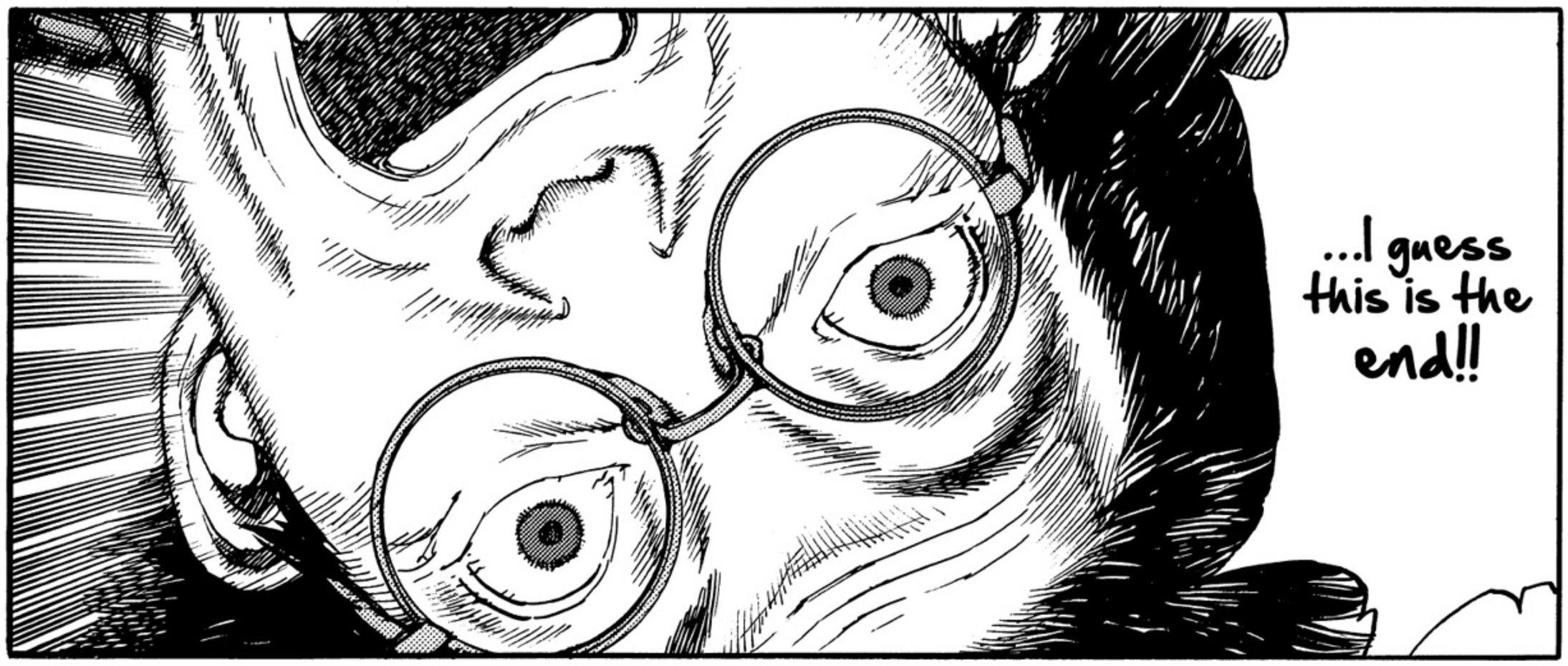
God, damn you! Say some-thing!!

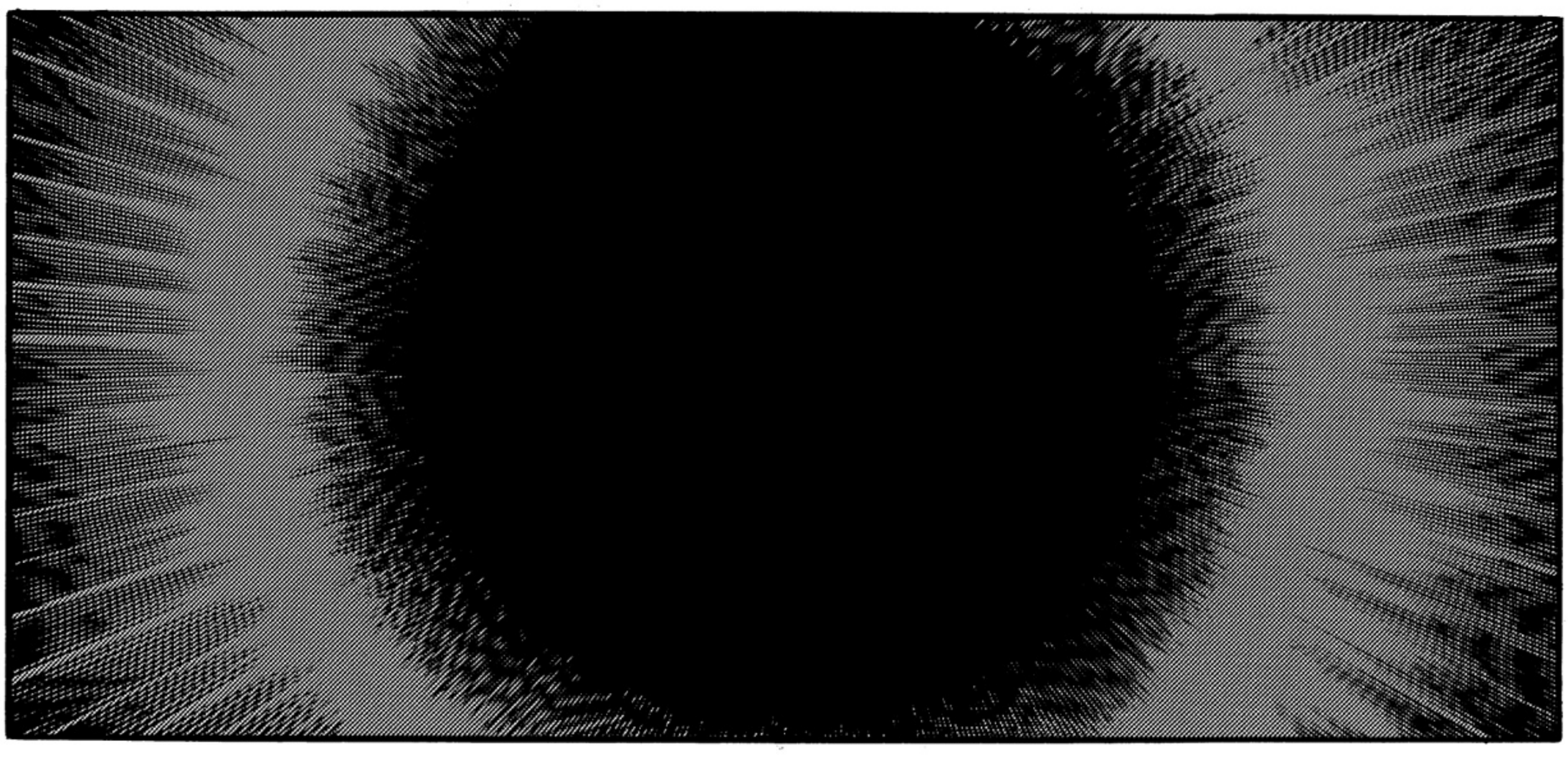
That's not what I needed to hear at the moment, idiot...!

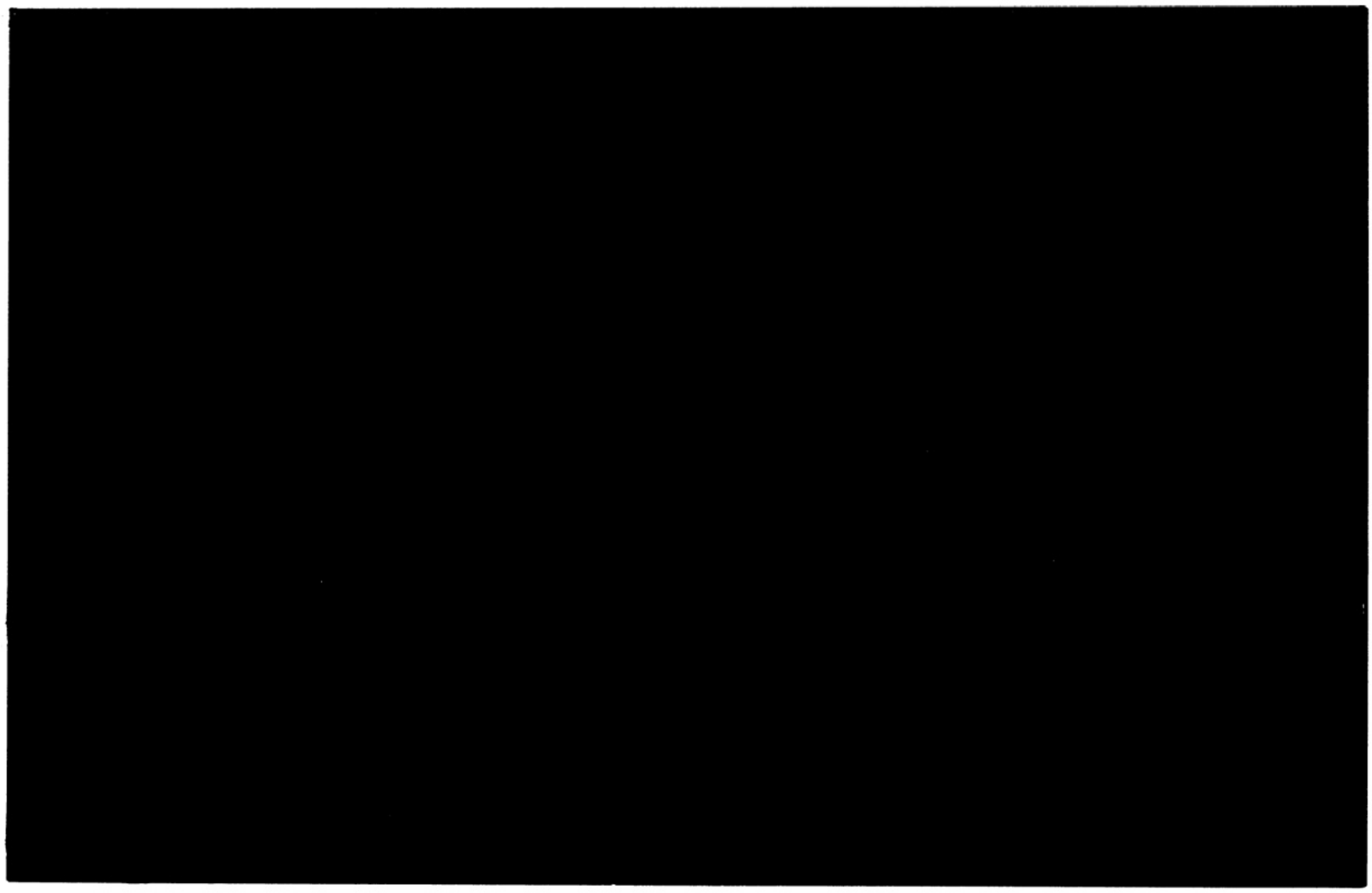
ROARRR




Well...

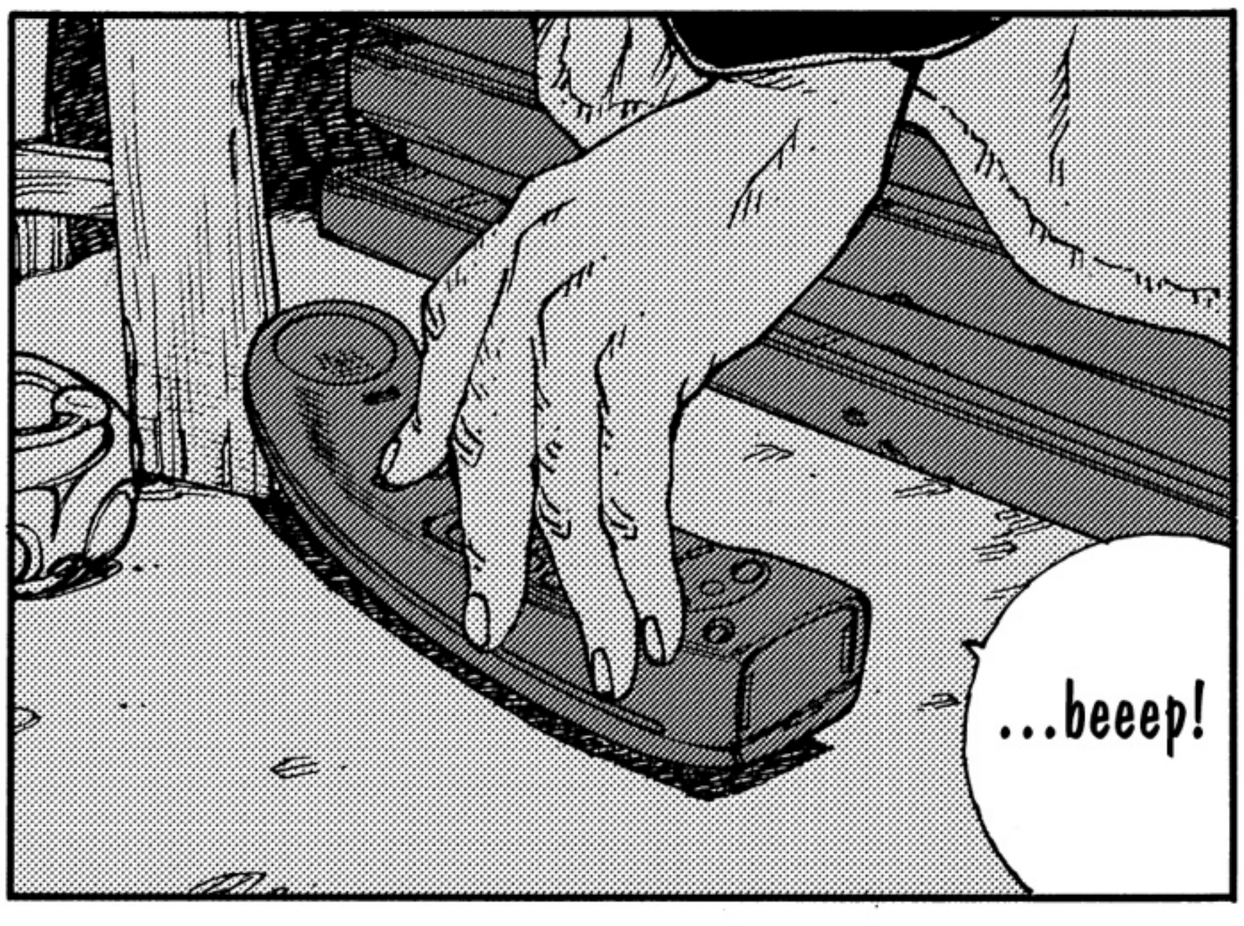

...I guess this is the end!!

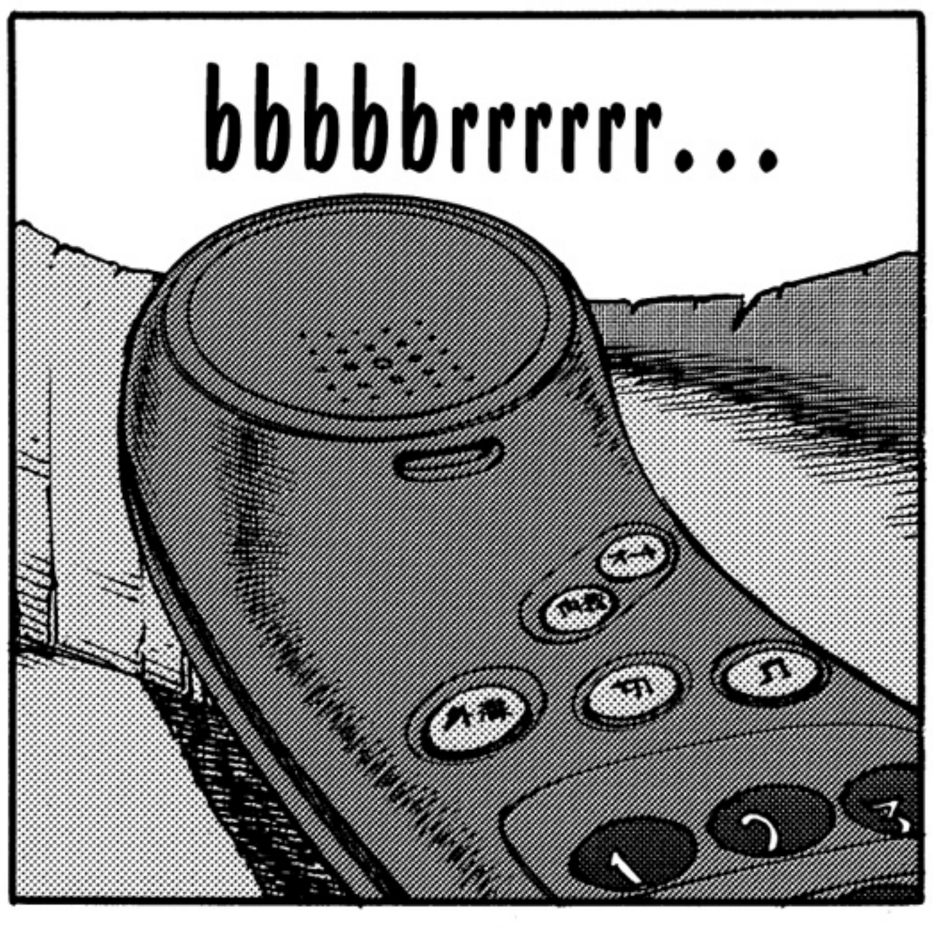





bbbbrrrrr
bbbbrrrrr


beep


...beeep!


bbbbbbrrrrrr...

Oh...hey. Good morning.

It's Hara from Comic Guard magazine.

What's up? I'm almost done with the next chapter...

Hi. Satoshi Kon speaking.

Okay. It's like this...

Huh? Look, just tell me.

Do you have time for coffee? The editor in chief would like to meet with you.

Ahhh...This is difficult to say, but I've got some bad news.

...You're canceling the magazine ...?!

No sense to be found from the politicians or the bureaucrats ...

Nothing good in the newspapers today. Construction scandals. Bad loans. AIDS.

flip

The whole country's in decline ...

slurp ...We're all adrift at sea, with no hand on the rudder.

Crap.

Canceled !!

What am I going to do...?

...We simply have no other choice.

Our deepest apologies, but sales being what they are...

Will I at least get a graphic novel?

Sorry.

We know this is completely out of the blue.

We're sorry.

Look, I could finish up the story in just three more chapters...

...We're sorry.

I really could finish the story in three chapters...

Well...then I guess there's nothing left to talk about.

That's just great...

Well, fuck.

It's just gone. Poof.

How?!

They did do that.

ズズズ slrrrpp

No way! They can't do that.

They canceled the magazine ...?

Think of something !!

Well?

I know.

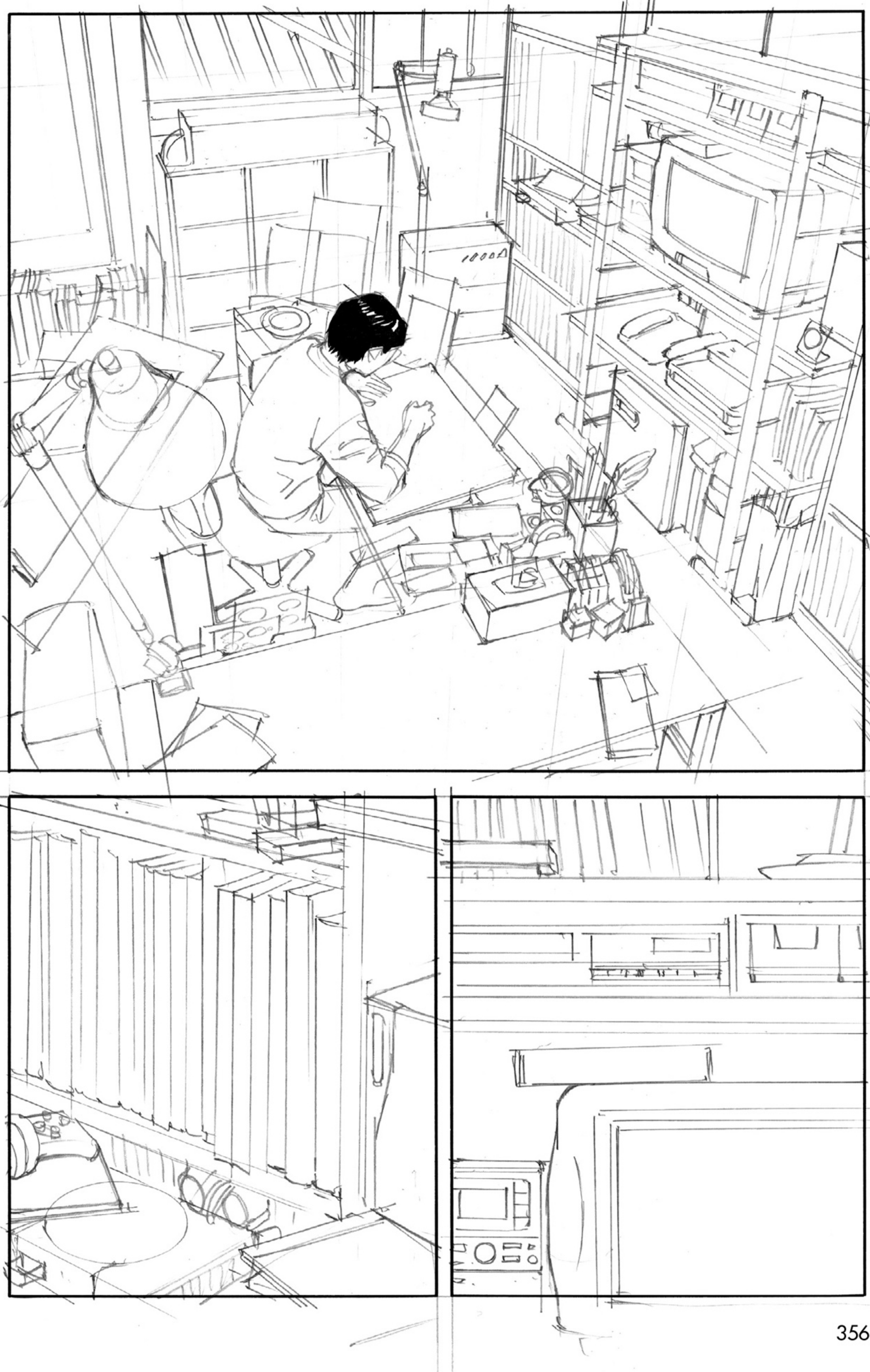
But you can't just give up!!

That's terrible!!

What will you do?

Yep. It sure is.

Nothing.



Workplace

...I just don't feel like drawing.

Ahhhh...

rattle

It's me, Kon. Been a while... Thanks. And you...?

Yeah... Sounds rough. Me? Well, about that...

...Yeah, I know it was discontinued, but hear me out.

beep beep beeeep

I'm working on a final chapter. It'll be an abrupt ending, but better than nothing.

Well, there's about 350 pages finished...What? At least it could be a graphic novel...I'm serious!

Seraphim...my bastard child. Yeah, that's not finished either.

With *OPUS*, though...I have a tentative plan.

Everything comes crashing together--the manga and the real world--we don't know what's real anymore, then the child and...

Yeah, similar to *Memories*. I liked that.

I mean, I want to draw it, but I'm busy with *Perfect Blue*.

Yeah...doing manga and anime at the same time takes its toll.

You can't...? Well, that's okay.

The scenario fits with the continuity...

flap

...They probably think I'm just too absorbed with anime... heh-heh.

I feel bad for the people who bought the magazine, though...

I wonder if being canceled was really doing me a favor...ha ha ha!

I guess this is the end!!

Whew.

What? Really? Well, let me know. Thanks!

sigh...

...Huh?

EPP...

fsshhh

Eeeyaa!!

I thought I was the artist...but it turns out I'm just a character, too!!

Now I know how Satoko felt the first time she met me!

Unreal...

You can't just leave us in midair...!

Allow me to get to the point, though!

...It's like talking to myself...

Maybe fix some of the crappier pages you phoned in!

Higher powers, eh? So talk to another publisher about a graphic novel!

Look, it's not like it was my decision...

tap tap tap

I'm home...!

We deserve an ending...

At least finish us when your film is over! You have an obligation to your characters!!

Are you making fun of me?!

Say. You're an artist. Can you assist?

It's not that I don't want to. I'm just busy with my animation right now...

rattle

Well...I have been talking to someone about a collected edition...

Talking to himself again...?

Oh, hello.

That's good! I could use the royalties...

Oh, no.

KYAAA!!

From the manga *OPUS*, serialized about a year ago in the now-defunct magazine *Comic Guy's*. She'll get the cool ending she deserves someday. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone who supported and enjoyed the series.



今敏

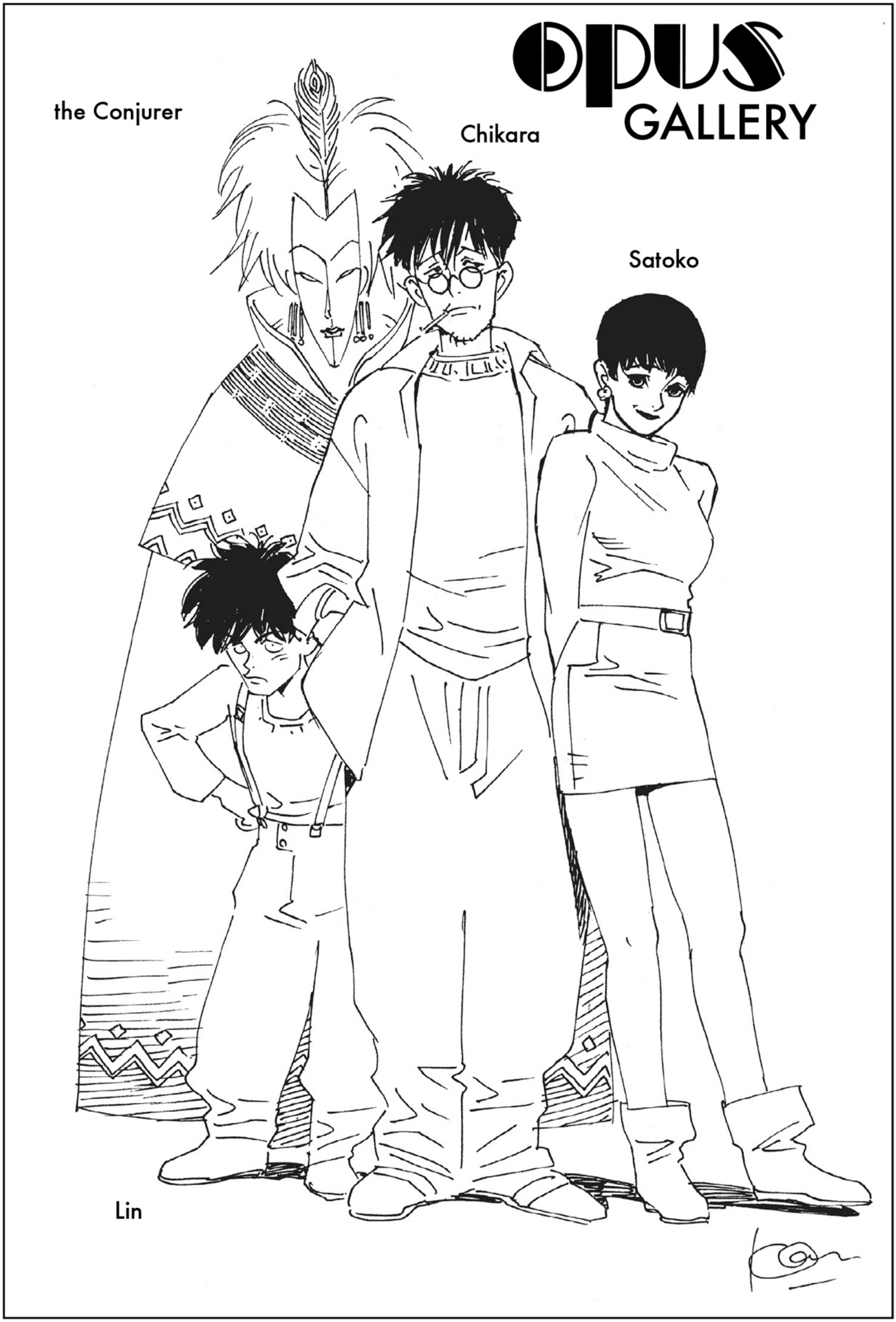
Satoshi Kon

I'm not sure where or when, but I look forward to meeting you again!

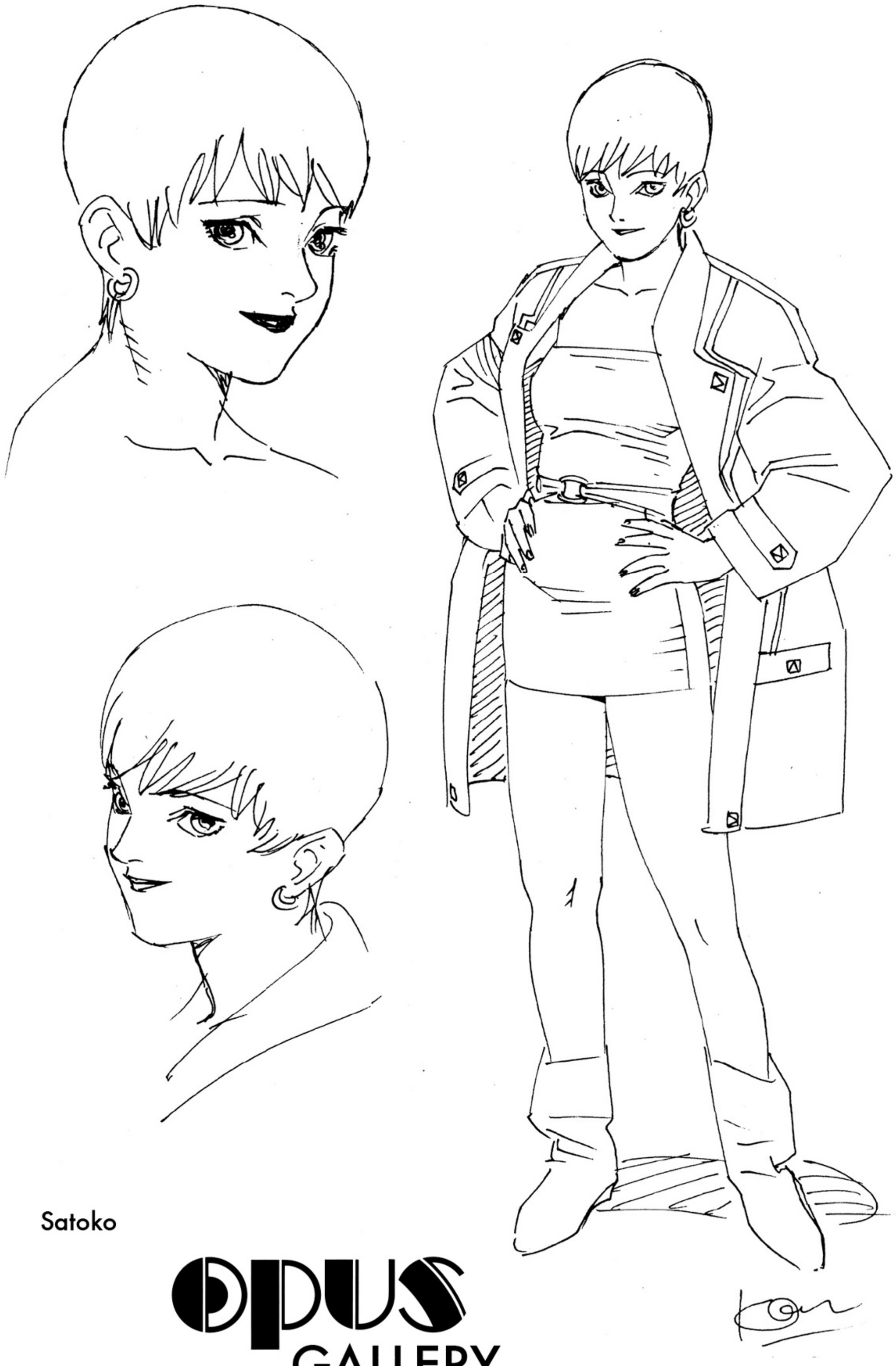
THE END

OPUS

DESIGN GALLERY



Early character designs, from before the series began. The Masque was originally called "the Conjurer."



Satoko

OPUS GALLERY

Working on costume design here. The character design is more or less the same and hasn't changed from the initial stage.

pet cat

Chikara

OPUS GALLERY

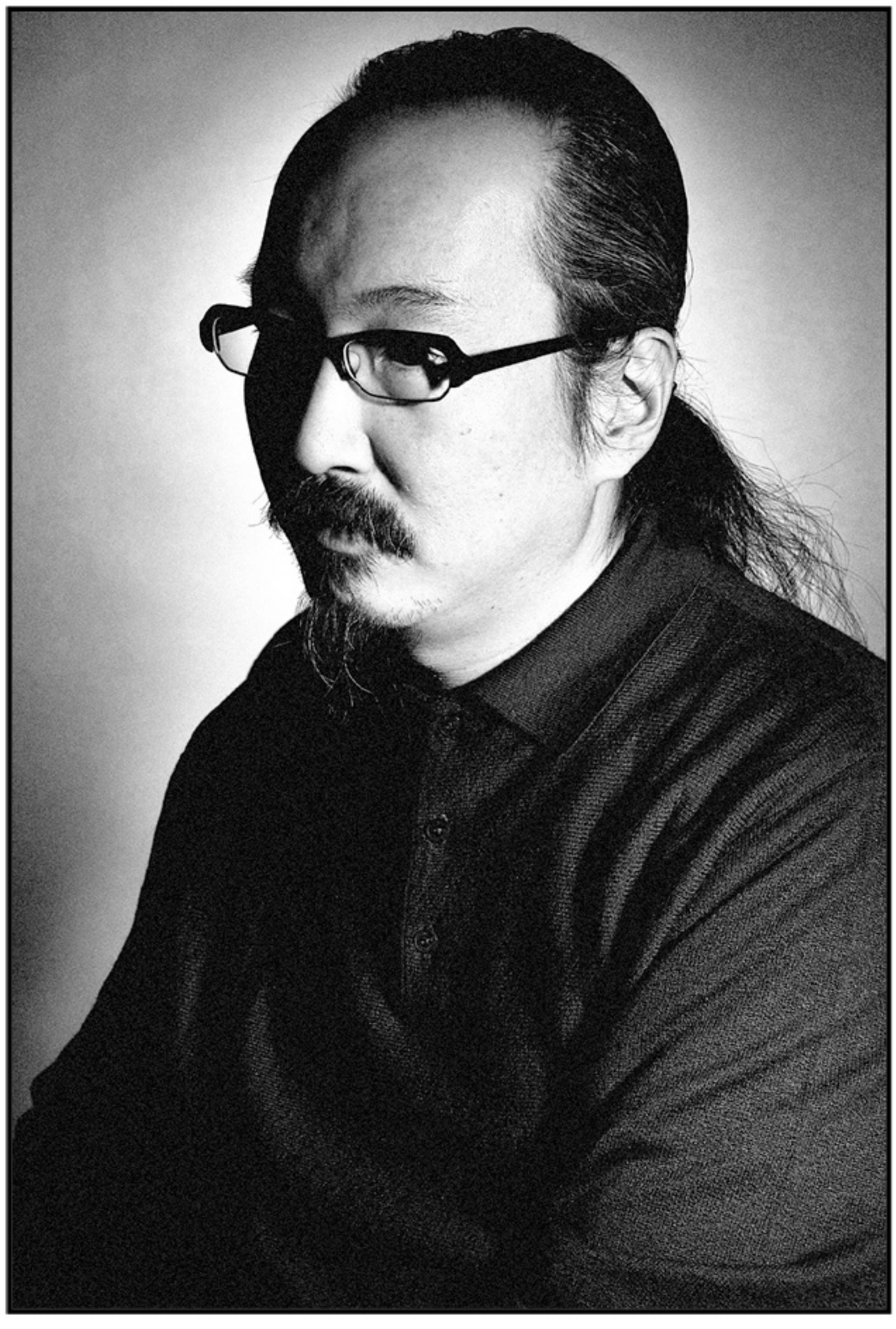
In these first rough sketches, the characters were drawn much younger.



Satoshi Kon also made a cameo in his 2004 TV series *Paranoia Agent*.

ABOUT SATOSHI KON

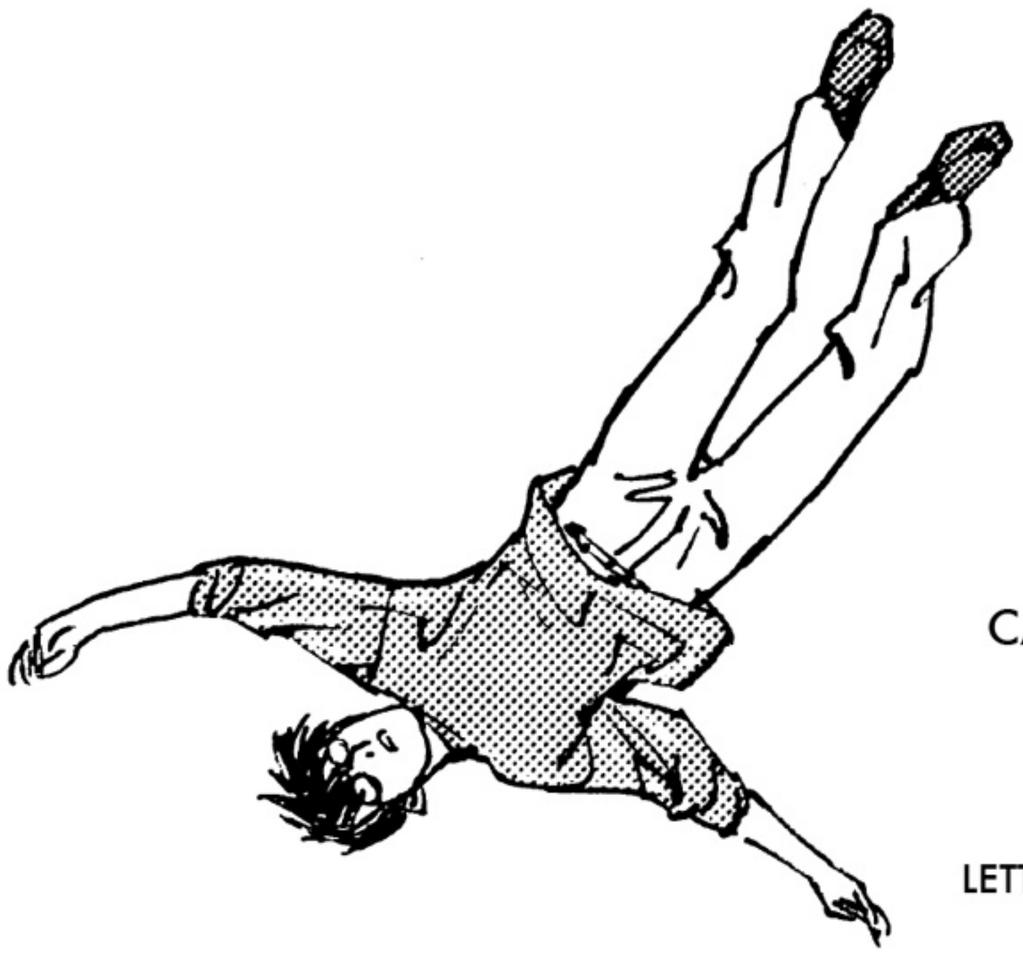
Satoshi Kon was born on October 12, 1963, in Sapporo, capital of Japan's northernmost prefecture, Hokkaido. When he was four years old, his father transferred to Kushiro in eastern Hokkaido, where they lived until Kon was in the third grade. From fourth to eighth grade they lived again in Sapporo, and then moved back to Kushiro, where Kon finished high school. Comic artist Seiho Takizawa, whose manga *Who Fighter* was published by Dark Horse in 2006, was a classmate and friend of Kon's in Sapporo. Attending Hokkaido Kushiro Koryo High School, Kon decided that he wanted to be an illustrator. In 1982, he entered the graphic arts department of Musashino Art University in Tokyo. While still a student, he submitted his short story "Toriko" to Kodansha's *Young Magazine*. The story won the Tetsuya Chiba Award for Rookie of the Year. His second story, "Curve," marked his official debut as a manga artist. In 1987, he graduated from college.



In 1990, he completed *Tropic of the Sea* (available in English from Vertical) and in 1991 he drew the manga adaptation of Katsuhiro Otomo's live-action film *World Apartment Horror*. That same year he attracted attention for his work as an animator on Hiroyuki Kitakubo's *Roujin Z*, and after assisting on various anime works in the 1990s he made his own directorial debut in 1997 with *Perfect Blue*. His second film, *Millennium Actress*, tied with Hayao Miyazaki's *Spirited Away* for the Grand Prize in the Japan Agency of Cultural Affairs Media Arts Festival and was followed by the film *Tokyo Godfathers* and the TV series *Paranoia Agent*. Kon's fourth and final completed movie, *Paprika*, was ranked by *Time* magazine as one of the 25 best animated films ever made. On August 25, 2010, Satoshi Kon passed away suddenly from pancreatic cancer.

SATOSHI KON'S

OPUS



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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
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English-language version produced by Dark Horse Comics

SATOSHI KON'S OPUS
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Published by Dark Horse Manga
A division of Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222

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First print edition: November 2014
Digital ISBN 978-1-63008-158-4

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A LOST MANGA FROM ONE OF ANIME'S GREATEST DIRECTORS!

Satoshi Kon, director of *Paprika*, *Paranoia Agent*, *Tokyo Godfathers*, *Millennium Actress*, and *Perfect Blue*, died tragically young in 2010 at the age of 46. But before he began his anime career in the 1990s, he was one of Japan's most talented manga artists. *OPUS* is Kon's metafictional tale of Chikara Nagai, a creator under pressure to finish his latest graphic novel, *Resonance*, who finds that the harshest critic of the shock ending he's got planned is the character who'll have to die in it! Nagai's strengths and weaknesses as a creator are tested beyond their limits as his present and his past, and the worlds of the manga and of reality, become the levels of a maze he may never escape . . . let alone get a chance to resolve the story!

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